

5 years on, Iraqis would like to forget Gulf war

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A bronze statue of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein greets visitors to the Saddam Tower, a 203 metre (666 feet) high edifice that is a reminder not only of who's in charge but also of a war that many Iraqis would like to forget.

At the foot of the statue are fragments of the "Smart" laser-guided bombs dropped by allied planes in the 1991 Gulf war to demolish a skyscraper and communications centre that originally occupied the site.

Today it is a source of pride to Iraqis that hardly a trace remains in Baghdad of the huge damage the allied air and missile attacks inflicted on the city during the U.S.-led multinational campaign to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

But otherwise most Iraqis, their lives made desperately hard by U.N. sanctions imposed because of the Kuwaiti adventure, have little to brag about.

The invasion of the oil-rich neighbour to the south five years ago this week is now viewed as part of history that few people like to talk about.

Even the official press, which on previous anniversaries paid tribute to the events of Aug. 2 — termed Yum Al Nida (The Day of the Calling) — has been silent this year.

"For me it is something of the past. I have already turned my back on it," said a university professor. "We want to know what will happen tomorrow."

Iraqis realise they have paid dearly for their capture of Kuwait and turning it into what was called Iraq's 19th province.

U.N. sanctions have caused economic havoc, driving prices to levels beyond the reach of most of the population.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said last week the sanctions had killed more than one million Iraqis.

At traffic junctions in Baghdad, emaciated mothers with children trailing behind knock at car windows asking for money.

For many Iraqis Kuwait is the cause of their wretchedness — but there are few calls for vengeance.

"We have no scores to settle. We are poor people. We wait for the day oil flows again and hear our president is doing his best," said an old man.

Even the government in Baghdad would like to turn a new page. Several overtures to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been made this year.

They have gone unheeded, but Baghdad, though aware that the scars from its invasion of Kuwait need more time to heal, has not given up hope.

It has encouraged contacts with Qatar and Oman, two of the Gulf states that joined the United States and its allies in pushing Iraq out of Kuwait.

Allied fears were raised once again last October when Baghdad massed troops close

to Kuwait's borders in what looked for a few days like a replay of August, 1990.

But, following a quick response from the United States and its allies, Iraq backed down and instead began what amounted to a charm offensive.

Iraq formally recognised Kuwait as an independent state. Baghdad also erased from school textbooks references to Kuwait as part of Iraq.

"We are now holding out an olive branch. We hope our Arab neighbours (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia) will have the courage to forget the past," said an Iraqi journalist.

Kuwaiti songs and music are now in vogue in Iraq, and Iraqis travelling abroad have no hesitation in meeting Kuwaiti friends.

"I think there is more that binds us than separates. In Jordan, I and my favourite Kuwaiti singer — of course I am not going to give you his name — sang together in a theatre in Amman," said a well-known Iraqi composer.

"I think the Iraqis would welcome a Kuwaiti delegation in Baghdad now. The thing is, when will the Kuwaitis be willing to take such a step?" asked a Western diplomat.

"If they wait until the regime here goes, I believe they will have to wait for a very long time," he added.

Five years after its invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait, Iraq is still inflicting pain by refusing to shed light on 605 missing people, officials here say.

"They know that this hurts the Kuwaitis most. It's a pain they want to enjoy," according to Dwaif Al Anzi, director of the National Committee for Prisoners of War and Missing.

The fate of the missing is the main obstacle to normalisation between Kuwait and Iraq as it weighs far more heavily on people's minds than that of stolen property and war reparations, which nonetheless infuriates them.

A pile of hundreds of destroyed buses and trucks in Mutella, near the desert border shows Iraq has returned many of the goods it plundered after it invaded Kuwait.

The vehicles were returned several weeks ago, according to the spokesman of the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission, Salim Fahmawi, who spoke at UN-IKOM headquarters at Khir Abdallah.

Earlier this month Iraq announced the return of three coast guard ships, but "they just gave us the shells," Suleiman Shahin, an official at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, said.

Baghdad has also returned 120 armoured troops carriers but the serial numbers proved that they were taken from the Iraqis during the 1980-1988 war between those two countries, he added.



NEW SETTLEMENT: Israeli settlers start the construction of a new house over the "Givat Hadagan" hill, south of Bethlehem, where hundreds of them gathered to build a new neighbourhood against the Israeli army evacuation order.

The 130,000 settlers who fear that the next stage of autonomy will expose them to more attacks from Palestinian extremists, aim at derailing the peace deal with the FLO (AFP photo)

Hizbollah 'is not holding' missing Israeli airman

BEIRUT (AP) — The Hizbollah guerrilla group said it was not holding missing Israeli airman Ron Arad, and it also vowed to secure the release of 250 Lebanese jailed by Israel.

"Israel cares only for one soldier. Israeli pilot Ron Arad, whom we are not holding and whose whereabouts or kidnappers we don't know," Sheikh Naim Kassem, Hizbollah's deputy secretary general, said in remarks published Monday by the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat, based in London.

Arad was captured in 1986 by Shi'ite Muslim guerrillas after his Phantom F-4 fighter-bomber was shot down during an air raid in South Lebanon.

Israel contends it has information that Arad is still alive and is believed to be in Iranian hands. However, the Iranian government and Hizbollah, which is backed by Iran, have repeatedly denied this.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said recently that his government does not have accurate information on whether Arad is dead or alive.

Arad was believed captured by the Amal militia, a Shi'ite group backed by Syria. However, he was reportedly handed over to an Iranian Revolutionary Guard contingent based in eastern Lebanon in return for money.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Kassem said there were "real difficulties" in securing the freedom of Lebanese prisoners held in a detention centre in Israel and in the Israeli-occupied zone in South Lebanon.

"We are making political and media contacts to secure their release," he said.

Israel this year released some Lebanese prisoners from the Khiam Detention Centre in the border enclave Israel calls a "security zone." About 250 are still held, accused of aiding anti-Israeli guerrillas.

Hizbollah, or Party of God, has been spearheading a guerrilla war to dislodge Israel from the enclave established in 1985 as a buffer against cross-border attacks on northern Israeli towns.

Iraqi exiles ask: Is it really all Saddam's fault?

A nation of enormous potential, Iraq's immense problems have often been blamed on one man: Saddam Hussein. But Iraqi exiles say he survives in power five years after he invaded Kuwait because enough Iraqis still support him, or are unwilling to resist him.

By Jerome Socolovsky
The Associated Press

LONDON — "As thou art, shalt thou be ruled."

The admonition of 7th century Islamic leader Imam Ali to his early Muslim followers haunts modern-day Iraqis who have fled the rule of Saddam Hussein.

For years, critics of the Iraqi leader blamed him almost exclusively for the decline of a country blessed with an educated work force, a long history of advanced civilisation and vast oil wealth.

But now, 16 years after Saddam seized power, Iraqi exiles are beginning to echo the prophecy of the ancient Muslim philosopher-warrior: they are recognising that Saddam's rule has depended not only on his brutality, but also on the subservience and even active support from many of his subjects.

"Saddam is not something that came out of nowhere," said Salem Chalabi, a lawyer who was co-author of a plan to put Iraqi leaders before a U.N. war crimes tribunal. "Saddam is a product of Iraqi society."

Indeed, despite numerous attempts to overthrow him, Saddam has maintained enough support among Iraq's 18 million people to survive the five years since his ill-fated invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Since he became president in 1979, his regime has wiped out entire Kurdish villages with poison gas, deported tens of thousands of Iraqis of Persian origin and tortured and executed dissidents.

This has generated plenty of opposition, to be sure. An estimated 2 million Iraqis — more than 10 per cent of the population — have fled the country to escape Saddam's reign.

Others have paid a heavy price for resisting inside the country, including Shi'ite Muslims in the south. Kurds in the north, and even Saddam's fellow Sunni Muslims.

But since he stated his considerable power behind the scenes in the early 1970s, Saddam has won and held the support of a broad cross-section of people — academics, scientists, tribal chiefs, factory workers.

"During these 25 years, a lot of individuals have benefited from Saddam Hussein," said Lotfi Rachid, a spokesman for a Kurdish rebel group. "They have become rich. They have become powerful."

Even some Kurds were lured to Saddam's side. Mr. Rachid said.

Saddam has used Iraq's oil money to dispense patronage on a wide scale, which has been an effective means of maintaining support.

Exiles say the regime's main collaborators can be found among the estimated 1.5 million members of Saddam's Arab Socialist Resurrection Party, or "Baath" in Arabic.

Many of those who joined were simply cowards, charges author Kanan Makiya, whose 1988 book, Republic Of Fear, described the party's strongarm methods.

If an Iraqi wanted a scholarship or a promotion, he or she could win it by informing on friends or relatives, Makiya asserted in an interview in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

That created "mountains and mountains of paperwork whose sole purpose is to make larger and larger numbers of people accomplices in the criminality of the regime," he said.

Saddam also played to widespread feelings of Iraqi chauvinism. When he launched a war against Iran in 1980 and when he invaded Kuwait in 1990, many Iraqis cheered.

"Iraqis thought they were the best Arabs," said Mir Basri, a historian and former head of the small Jewish community in Iraq.

In the 1980s, when Saddam started deporting people of Persian origin, "very few people said, 'this is wrong,'" said Hani Al Feki, a one-time Saddam ally. "On the contrary, they would go and occupy his house or steal the contents."

Mr. Feki, who took part in the 1963 coup that installed the Baath Party, cited a series of television appearances in the early 1970s by prominent professionals.

In exchange for sinecures and other favours, they went on camera and gave ringing endorsements of Saddam, then the regime's No. 2 man, only to curse him later behind his back.

Mr. Feki said.

"Nobody asked them to do this," he said. "They helped the dictatorship. They knew Saddam Hussein and they knew what he would do with the country."

A large number of exiles still reject any notion of collective responsibility, and hold Saddam solely to blame. But this view is increasingly challenged, even inside Iraq.

One hotly debated theory at present, about an Iraqi "split personality," was actually formulated in the 1950s by Ali Wardi, a sociologist at the University of Baghdad who died in early July.

"We must not forget that a lot of us are superficially civilised but deep inside we are still bedouins or semi-bedouins," Mr. Wardi said in his six-volume work, which was republished in London in 1992 by popular demand among exiles.

Shortly before his death, a state-run newspaper in Baghdad, where Mr. Wardi lived, chastised the 82-year-old professor for continuing to stress the role in Iraqi society of bedouin values such as self-interest, blood ties and deference of strong chiefs.

Finger-pointing for Iraq's woes is a touchy subject these days, with nearly all Iraqis suffering from U.N. sanctions imposed after the Kuwait invasion.

According to the United Nations, one in five Iraqis goes to bed hungry every night even though food imports are exempt from the sanctions. Saddam has repeatedly rejected a proposal that would let Iraq export oil under U.N. supervision to pay for food and medicine.

Opponents of sanctions argue that ordinary Iraqis should not be punished for the misdeeds of their leaders, who continue to live comfortably, if not luxuriously.

"No Iraqi with a clear conscience can support sanctions," said Sherif Ali Ibn Hussein, would-be king and cousin of former King Faisal II, who was overthrown in a bloody 1958 coup.

However, he added, "It is Saddam Hussein who is applying sanctions on Iraq."

Mubarak moves to end threat by Islamic opposition

By Anthony Shadid
The Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — In a sweeping crackdown on a powerful but non-violent Muslim group, the government has moved to end its vision of the future Islamic rule will not be imposed in Egypt, even by peaceful means.

Whether that vision is viable is by no means certain. Nearly all Arab states in the past decade have used repression to try to crush Islamic opposition. At best, the result has been simmering discontent; at worst, full-blown civil war.

For Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak's all-or-nothing gambit will likely be a turning point after 14 years in power. It sends a signal to other Middle East nations — and the United States, Egypt's main patron — that one of the region's most powerful states will no longer tolerate serious opposition from even non-violent Islamic groups.

"The government is trying to say we really mean business," said Mohammed Sid Ahmad, a leftist columnist and political commentator. "There is a beginning of a crackdown vis-a-vis the Islamic trend in general and the moderates in particular."

On Tuesday, police rounded up 200 Muslim Brotherhood activists in two cities. It was the sharpest escalation in the government's campaign against the Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic organisation, with perhaps one million supporters.

The group, which envisions the creation of an Islamic state through democratic means, is technically illegal but has been allowed to operate openly and even compete in elections.

Some viewed the Brotherhood as an alternative to Muslim extremists fighting to overthrow Mr. Mubarak and imposed Islamic rule. More than 780 people, most of them militants and police, have died in three years of rebellion.

But since January, the government has accused the Brotherhood of forging ties with the extremists. The crackdown reveals Mr. Mubarak's decision to forgo the possibility of compromise with mainstream Islamic opponents.

It also shows the government considers the Brotherhood strong enough to pose a threat. It may hope to discredit the group before this fall's parliamentary elections.

But there's a potential for a backlash. Commentators warned the crackdown would strengthen the hand of Islamists, both violent and non-violent, by closing off any other avenue of opposition.

"If there is no lawful way to change, the people have to disobey the government and we think that there is now a real discontent among people toward the government," said Magdi Hossein, editor of Al Shaab, an Islamic-oriented newspaper.

The government often rounds up suspected militants, particularly in the wake of assassinations or attacks in southern Egypt. But Friday's sweep came without warning, and was one of the biggest single-day roundups since 1981, when President Anwar Sadat arrested more than 1,500 Islamists and mainstream opponents, including politicians, journalists, teachers and lawyers.

Sadat's purge was a desperate move to forestall growing Islamic militancy, disenchantment with his dictatorial style and the 1979 peace treaty with Israel. That resentment led to his assassination by Muslim militants.

Mr. Mubarak also faces disenchantment. An initial outpouring of relief after he escaped an assassination attempt in June in Ethiopia has dissipated, in part due to a media blitz of Mr. Mubarak's speeches and patriotic programming.

Economic problems remain. One in five Egyptians is unemployed and per capita incomes have declined since Mr. Mubarak came to power in 1981.

More generally, the government fails to inspire confidence.

Unlike his larger-than-life predecessors — Sadat and charismatic President Gamal Abdul Nasser — the taciturn Mubarak eschews the dramatic for the tedious. He promises reform — in due time.

In a telling example of the popularity the government craves, state-owned newspapers and magazines have published pictures of the young Mubarak greeting Nasser, still revered by the country's downtrodden.

A new film chronicling Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal in 1956 will soon appear on state television, breaking a taboo on dramatising the lives of past Egyptian leaders.

But it's doubtful the government can successfully mine the strong current of Nasserism. More likely, the government will have to face a changing Islamic movement on its own terms.

In a worst-case scenario, the crackdown could force more moderate Islamic elements into the camp of Muslim militants. It could also create divisions within the Brotherhood itself, which must search for a response.

"They will probably split between a trend that will try to explain to the government that they are mistaken and a more radical trend that will say we have to strike back," Mr. Sid Ahmad said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Captain Planet
14:30 Mantis
15:00 Road to Avonlea
15:30 Families
16:00 Spirou
17:00 Montaigne
17:30 Taratara
18:00 News in French
18:15 Faut Pas Revenir
18:30 News Headlines
19:30 You Be Your Life
20:00 Piglet Files
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Urban Angel
22:00 News in English
22:25 Death of a Gentleman
23:30 New York Undercover
23:59 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES

04:17 Fajr
05:45 Sunrise
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:38 Maghreb
21:07 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Saite Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot and dry weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 22/37
Aqaba 27/42
Deserts 18/39
Jordan Valley 26/41

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 40. Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 34 per cent. Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Yusuf Al Fakhri 756988
Dr. Arafat Al Ashab 602517
Dr. Khalid Halasa 819220
Dr. Khalil Al Tushiq 757253
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 637640
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad 985590
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09) 532015, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:00 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:50 London (RJ)
18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
02:29 Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
09:45 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:00 Munich (YP)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
06:25 Amsterdam (AZ)
21:00 Aden (DY)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40 Beirut (RJ)
09:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (GF)
13:10 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
14:55 Madrid (RJ)
15:30 Larnaca (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:15 Damascus (RJ)
16:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
10:45 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Vienna (OS)
14:30 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:55 Sharh Al Sheikh, Munich (YP)
15:20 Damascus (AZ)
15:30 Riyadh (add) (SV)
16:00 Aden (DY)
06:25 Amsterdam (AZ)
01:55 Bucharest (RO)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus
Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman
7:30 a.m. every Sunday
5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600/400
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 100/50
Carrot 220/120
Cauliflower 150/100
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 270/180
Eggplant 180/100
Garlic 650/500
Lemon 650/500
Marrow (large) 140/90
Marrow (small) 250/180
Mushroom 130/80
Onion (dry) 750/600
Onion (wet) 420/320
Peas 800/600
Pepper (hot) 180/100
Pepper (sweet) 160/100
Potato 360/200
String Beans 360/250
Sweet Melon 300/200
Tomato 130/70
Water Melon 110/60

DISCUSS... receives in Shora. Th... and Sudan... who accom... in the talk... former ag... countries... been see... (Petra photo)

Israel

JORDANIAN... able to obtain the Israeli... Amman as... rather than... obtain them... according to... reached Sun... Jordanian... cials reached... during a mee... to major bo... Jordan River... ing, near... Haim, that... over the past... According... Zelichovsky... border crossi... ports Authori... tem is to go... August 15... Israeli touri... dan will con... their visas to... through their... nies.

The meeting... border crossi... ed by senior... customs... authority offi... Jordanian co...

Senate

(Continued from page 1)

sions related... lease to for... Rifa's... shock to for... who seek to... property to... should abide... economic bo... enemy."

Prime Minis... Ben Shaker... committee f... concerned de... already been... all laws relat... lease to forei... that a law t... issue from a... be produced f...

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

have to be co... just if Palest... were to be h... Mr. Savir s... know how lo... would take b... the sides wer... ing.

Meanwhile... on Monday dr... Jewish settle... disputed West... and destroyed... there, witness... police said.

Witnesses s... settlers, who... against the im... of Palestinia... West Bank, pl... mouse game u... rocky hillside... day.

Police pull... from the buil... over rocks, bu...

TWO FUR

The first is a... apartment... sitting and d... a garage... floor apartm... room, living... has separat... large kitchen... Please



DISCUSSING WATER ISSUES: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday receives in his office visiting Sudanese Minister of Water and Irrigation Yagoub Abu Shora. The two officials reviewed cooperation in water related fields between Jordan and Sudan. Following the meeting Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat, who accompanied Mr. Abu Shora to the prime ministry, said agreement was reached in the talks for working out a new mechanism for cooperation which would update a former agreement between Khartoum and Amman. Under the new accord the two countries will exchange expertise and water related research and studies. Sudan has been seeking Jordanian expertise in searching for underground water resources (Petra photo)

'Israel to issue visas through embassy'

JORDANIANS WILL be able to obtain tourist visas at the Israeli Embassy in Amman as of mid-August, rather than have to wait to obtain them at the border, according to an agreement reached Sunday.

Jordanian and Israeli officials reached the agreement during a meeting called due to major bottlenecks at the Jordan River border crossing, near Kibbutz Maoz Haim, that have occurred over the past few weeks.

According to Menahem Zeligovsky, director of the border crossings for the Airports Authority, the new system is to go into effect on August 15.

Israeli tourists visiting Jordan will continue obtaining their visas to the Kingdom through their tour companies.

The meeting, held at the border crossing, was attended by senior Israeli police, customs, and airports authority officials and their Jordanian counterparts.

In addition, from September 1, the King Hussein Bridge crossing, which until now has been closed on Friday and Saturday, is to be open on those days from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On other days, hours will be extended, and will be from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The two sides also agreed that the Jordanians are to add a second shuttle bus.

There are already two Israeli shuttle buses in operation. The Israeli authorities also undertook to set up shaded areas for the Jordanian visitors waiting to be checked, to provide 200 chairs for them, and to make hot and cold drinks available.

Meanwhile, Israelis returning from Jordan, as well as foreign tourists and Jordanians entering Israel, will all apparently have to put up with another two weeks of bottlenecks at the border crossing.

According to Makram Khoury Mahool, director of Jaffa Communications, a

company involved with trade relations with Jordan, the situation has become intolerable, with waits of six hours and more in the hot sun.

Last week, Mr. Mahool said he saw a number of people faint because of the heat. Those lining up to go through the Israeli police checkpoint had to wait in the sun and those who went to stand in the shade lost their place in line, he said.

The delay was caused, he explained, because each Jordanian entering had to be issued a visa, a procedure that takes a great deal of time.

Mr. Mahool, who has been organising groups to the Jerash Festival, also said Jordanians have continued to insist on a maximum of 300 tourists from Israel a day at the crossing, thus making it impossible for all those who want to attend the festival to do so.

The Jerusalem Post

Senate endorses legislation

(Continued from page 1)

sions related to land sale and lease to foreigners," Mr. Rifa'i said. "It would be a shock to foreign investors who seek to own or rent property to learn that they would be subject to a law on economic boycott of the enemy."

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said a special committee from the concerned departments has already been formed to study all laws related to land sale or lease to foreigners. He said that a law that tackles the issue from all its aspects will be produced for this purpose.

The new draft law will be submitted to the house for endorsement, the prime minister said. Senator Thougan Hindawi, who also spoke on behalf of Senators Marwan Hmoud and Oqasem Obeidat, said that the issue of dual nationality holders was not tackled in the draft law. He proposed an amendment to article six of the legislation with view to ensuring more protection against land sale to Israelis who have double nationalities.

Senator Jawdat Shoul, former interior minister, countered by saying that the draft law prohibits any holder of

dual nationality from owning land in Jordan if his/her first or second nationality is Israeli. He said that even if a foreigner purchased land in Jordan and was later discovered to have dual nationality, then the lease or sale contract will be considered null and void in accordance with the law.

"The draft law, which has been under thorough study by deputies, experts, senators and ministers, provides solid safeguards against future exploitation," said Mr. Shoul, the rapporteur of the Senate's joint financial and judiciary committee, which studied the draft law.

Israel, PLO to narrow differences

(Continued from page 1)

have to be concluded in August if Palestinian elections were to be held this year.

Mr. Savir said he did not know how long negotiations would take but said he felt the sides were close to signing.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces on Monday dragged scores of Jewish settlers down from a disputed West Bank hilltop and destroyed their tent site there, witnesses and Israeli police said.

Witnesses said police and settlers, who are protesting against the imminent spread of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, played a cat-and-mouse game up and down the rocky hillside for most of the day.

Police pulled protesters from the hilltop, sometimes over rocks, but then let many

of them go. Some settlers climbed back up to the top of the hill and were brought down again.

"That's four times they dragged me down. I grew up in the 1950s and I know the power of civil disobedience," said Yossi Baumol from the nearby Efrat settlement.

The setting up of the tent site at Al Khader is the latest move by Jewish settlers, who oppose the Israeli government's talks with the PLO to expand self-rule in the West Bank and are trying to undermine them, saying the area is the Jews' Biblical heritage.

In recent weeks they have symbolically expanded settlements and built roads, testing a government that is committed both to handing over areas of the West Bank to the Palestinians and to ensuring the safety of 100,000 settlers who live amongst them.

TWO FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

The first is a 200 square metres, separate ground floor apartment, consisting of two bedrooms, guest room, sitting and dining area, glassed-in veranda, garden, and a garage. The second is a 220 square metre second floor apartment, consisting of three bedrooms, guest room, living room, glassed-in balcony. Each apartment has separate central heating, telephone, maid room, large kitchen, and deluxe furniture. Please call Tel. 665711 and 664256

Sudanese interior minister arrives for talks on cooperative ventures

AMMAN (Petra) — Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeb Ibrahim Kheir, who arrived here early Monday for a two-day visit opened talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Salameh Hammad, on promoting Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation in security and civil defence fields and in matters related to the work of interior ministries in both countries.

Mr. Kheir said that Sudan would like to cooperate with the Kingdom in security matters and in training personnel in civil defence and police work.

Mr. Hammad was quoted as saying that Jordan was willing to extend assistance in those areas to Sudan.

The Sudanese minister, who visited the interior ministry's information centre, was briefed on the operational system of the ministry's departments.

Mr. Kheir said that while in Jordan he aims to familiarise himself with the interior ministry's administrative systems, training programmes as well as the operations of the Public Security and Civil Defence departments for possible assimilation in Sudan.



Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad Monday escorts visiting Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeb Ibrahim Kheir through the ministry's information centre (Petra photo)

The Sudanese official later visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met its director, Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Adwan and senior assistants.

He was briefed on police organisation and operations in the country and PSD contributions to United Nations peacekeeping forces deployed in several regions around the world.

Mr. Kheir inspected several branches of the department and heard about procedures in dealing with traffic accidents, crimes and the training of police cadres.

Government launches new drive to curb influx of foreign labourers

By Saad Hattar
Agence France Press

AMMAN — With unemployment rates of up to 18.8 per cent, Jordan has launched a drive to curb the influx of foreign labourers, who already number 250,000.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday set up a five-minister panel tasked with "regulating the employment of foreign labourers," especially those from Egypt and Syria.

"While we welcome any Arab national to work in the Kingdom, we also have a rather limited capacity," Minister of Labour Nader Abu Sha'ar told AFP.

"Our market is quite saturated and we can take no more," Mr. Abu Sha'ar said. Jordan's workforce is estimated at 856,000 out of a population of four million

people, according to official figures. Some 160,000 are unemployed.

Unemployment soared dramatically in the wake of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, which prompted the return of 350,000 Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait and other Gulf states.

Mr. Abu Sha'ar said 42,000 labourers from Arab countries had Jordanian work permits.

Independent estimates indicate that at least another 210,000 foreigners, mostly Egyptians, are working illegally in jobs which could be filled by Jordanians.

Officials say nearly 1,000 Egyptians enter the Kingdom daily, in addition to an unknown number of Syrians.

Most of them end up flooding the labour market. Jordan has launched sev-



Nader Abu Sha'ar

eral fruitless campaigns to cut down foreign labour in the past, but the latest drive is more wide-ranging because it involves five related ministries, notably the Ministry of Interior which monitors border posts

and airports. The campaign also coincides with the introduction of a new labour code that gives priority to Jordanian manpower.

"Employers should not opt to hire foreign labourers unless in special cases with official permits," the new labour code stipulates.

"After Jordanians, Arab labourers take priority over other foreigners, provided they work in sectors short of local manpower like agriculture and construction."

But employers tend to hire Egyptians who are reputed to accept lower wages than their Jordanian counterparts and are ready to work more hours.

"The standard of wages is linked to the market mechanism, as well as to the actions of employers," Mr. Abu Sha'ar said. "The ball is now in the court of busi-

nessmen." The minister stressed the campaign had no political motives.

"On the contrary, our bilateral protocol with Egypt bars any Egyptian from working in Jordan without a work permit," he said.

He stressed Amman would not resort to collective deportation as foreign labourers will be given a three-month grace period to adjust to regulations.

But all those caught without work permits after the deadline will be fined and immediately deported, he added.

Burdened by a foreign debt of around \$6.5 billion, Jordan introduced a five-year economic plan in Sept. 1993 which was aimed at slashing the unemployment rate to nine per cent by 1997 by creating 224,000 new jobs.

Croats, Serbs clash

(Continued from page 1)
moved on Gorazde, one of the four remaining U.N.-declared safe areas along with Bihać, Sarajevo and Tuzla.

But NATO members such as France have insisted that Bihać was a different matter, embroiling six different groups, including Bosnian government forces, Muslim rebels, Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia, and Croats.

"Bihać is not comparable with Gorazde where the lines were clear cut," Mr. Portillo told reporters after his talks with Mr. Perry.

The British official did not specify what action NATO envisioned taking around Bihać, but said, "We all agree that Serbs should be in no doubt that we are taking all safe areas seriously."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heat wave to last until Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Monday said the current heat wave is expected to continue until Wednesday evening. A department spokesman told the Jordan Times that the high temperatures will be accompanied by dry, hot winds which exacerbate the conditions further. The average temperature in Jordan for this time of year is 32° C — temperatures over the next two days are expected to hit 37° C, the meteorologist said. Nighttime temperatures could be expected to drop to 22° C. In the Jordan Valley, he said, daytime highs could reach 42° C.

More computers to be installed in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education plans to install 864 additional computers in 111 of its schools around the country in the coming year. The country's public schools were equipped with 4,531 computers in 488 schools last year. The ministry is gradually fulfilling a plan to offer all 10th grade students with computer courses, according to ministry officials.

PSD warns car rental offices to observe price regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday cautioned rent-a-car offices in Jordan to follow car rental regulations especially in cases in which young drivers and tourists are concerned.

Addressing a meeting of owners of car rental agencies, Major General Ibrahim Sarairoh, assistant to the PSD director for traffic affairs, said that some agencies have rented cars to young people for higher rates than those allowed under the regulations, and some hiked the rates when renting cars to tourists.

He also complained that some car rental establishments do not properly maintain their vehicles, and some have not returned their clients' passports when the cars are returned to the office.

According to Major General Sarairoh, these establishments are violating regulations set by the PSD.

He said a client should be asked to provide a photocopy of his/her passport and should be charged the rates stipulated in the PSD regulations. According to employees at Rawan Rent-a-Car office in Amman, Jordan has 150 car rental offices — at least 135 are concentrated in the capital.

The employees told the Jordan Times that their office charges a rental fee of JD 20 to JD 27 per day for a car, provided the client travels no more than 100 kilometres per day.

They said that some offices they know of have been charging higher rates on car rentals to young people to serve as a guarantee on possible damage.

Jordanians were only permitted to rent cars in the Kingdom after March 1991. Prior to that car rental agencies could only serve non-Jordanians.

The Spanish Embassy in Amman

has the pleasure to announce that within the activities of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts

THE WORLD FAMOUS FLAMENCO DANCE 26-MEMBER GROUP FROM CADIZ

"AL-ANDALUS"

will perform at the South Theatre / Jerash August 1st and 2nd 1995 at 8:30 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

* Concert by Bashar and Ayman Zarkan of Syria at Artimes Steps at 9:00 p.m.

* Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Digger and the Blind Prostitute" at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

* Concert by the Dio Ayad at Gracia Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

* Performance by Jugnu Group at the Forum (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)

* Lucnica Folklore Group of Slovakian at the Sound and Light at 9:00 p.m.

* Performance by Al-Andalus De Cadiz of Spain at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Poetry recital by several Arab poets at Darat Al Funun, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

* Puppet show for children entitled "The Children of the Village" at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

* Performance by several and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

* Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.)

* Egyptian circus at the Forum at 9:30 p.m.

* Handicrafts and souvenirs at the Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)

* Abstract art by Randa Qassis at the Royal Cultural Centre

* Exhibition of Palestinian products 95 at the Universal Expo Centre, University Road.

* Display of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.

* Paintings and ceramics by Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

* Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Sri Lanka Tiger rebels admit 128 women cadres killed

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said Monday 128 women, including two suicide bombers, were killed in an abortive attack on four army bases Friday and that a "traitor" had forewarned the military.

The Tigers radio, broadcasting from the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, said 180 cadres were killed in Friday's assault in the northeast Welioya area, 128 of them women.

It made no mention of dead children seen lying in rows in pictures taken by the Defence Ministry after the fighting.

The armed forces scored their biggest victory over the Tamil Tigers in 12 years of war Friday and accused the guerrillas of sacrificing young girls and boys in the front line.

The army says the bodies of 182 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters were recovered but that the toll would rise. State radio said almost 500 Tigers had been killed, after bodies strewn along the beaches had been counted.

Only one home guard and one soldier were killed in raids on which they had received a tip-off, the military said.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said Saturday he was appalled at the number of children killed in the enemy front lines.

"There were young girls and boys in large numbers,"

he told Reuters. "There is no respect of human life on their side. We can't sacrifice human lives like that."

Tiger radio said a traitor had tipped off the military, which is why they were ready. It said two women suicide bombers had destroyed two artillery pieces at Janakapura, which it described as the armed forces' most deadly weapon.

Some 3,000 Tigers were involved in the attack on the military detachments at Kokilai, Janakapura, Jayasinghepura and Kokkuduvai, military sources said.

Tigers attacked in the same area Monday, at Athawetunuwewa, killing one soldier and wounding three, the military said.

On Sunday, troops ambushed and killed five Tigers south of the Elephant Pass base on the northern Jaffna lagoon. One soldier was wounded.

The Tigers launched their raids Friday as the armed forces prepared to resume their Operation Leap Forward offensive in the LTTE's Jaffna peninsula stronghold, where they say they have captured 78 square kilometres of rebel territory.

The Tigers retaliated Sunday by blowing up a popular brigadier in a landmine. He was promoted posthumously to lieutenant general.

The military said 10 Tigers and one soldier were killed Saturday when troops moved out of their newly captured

area south of Alveddi and attacked a group of LTTE fighters.

Tiger Radio said only three LTTE members were killed and that the rebels had stopped the army advance.

Jaffna Radio maintained silence about the raids over the weekend, but residents travelling from the north said the town of Ommantai was in mourning, with black flags flying the streets and all the shops closed.

The Tigers have been fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east in a war which the government says more than 50,000 people have been killed since 1983.

Meanwhile a radical Sinhala group Monday called for a referendum on political proposals to end Sri Lanka's civil war and described the government's peace package as a "giant step" towards separation.

The Sinhalese People's Liberation Front, or JVP, which has led two unsuccessful insurrections said concessions to minority Tamils envisaged by the government amounted to a betrayal of the nation.

"The government is preparing to unveil a package that will pave the way to disintegrate the country. This so called settlement to the ethnic conflict is a giant step towards the creation of Eelam, a separate Tamil state," the JVP said.

Any proposals must go to a referendum, the JVP said in a statement that put the group



Registered Nurse Bayani Leguspi checks the blood pressure of Chicago resident Joseph Filipowski Jr. at a cooling centre in Chicago. In the wake of more than 500 heat-related deaths two weeks ago, Chicago declared a heat emergency as the heat index climbed above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (about 38 degrees Celsius) (AFP photo)

Chicago declares heat emergency

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Chicago declared a "heat emergency" over the weekend as temperatures soared into the mid-90s (35 degrees Centigrade), but there were no immediate reports of new deaths in this mid-western U.S. city still recovering from a deadly heat wave.

Some 546 deaths have been blamed on the recent hellish temperatures in Chicago, which extended its heat emergency into Monday.

amid continued forecasts of hot and sticky weather.

Nationwide, officials reported the deaths of 845 people over the past few weeks.

Emergency measures in Chicago have included the opening to the public of eight centres which provided round-the-clock air conditioning for the poorest who are otherwise unable to escape the heat and high humidity which has plagued much of the eastern United States for the past two weeks.

People were also allowed into some 60 other city buildings during the heat of the day.

In Washington, where veterans Saturday commemorated the Korean War, some 500 people had to be treated for heat exhaustion.

Meanwhile, a tropical storm brought relief from the heat to the coast of Texas, in the south, Sunday, but heavy rainfalls caused some flooding to previously parched areas.

Parents in court bid for baby euthanasia

LONDON (R) — The parents of a brain-damaged baby boy Monday sought to end his suffering and let him die. Fiona and Con Creedon went to the English High Court asking permission to withdraw artificial feeding for their 22-month-old son Thomas, brain-damaged in the womb and now blind and deaf. "Fiona and I love Thomas beyond measure and we would not seek this action if we did not believe it was best for him," Con Creedon said before launching the emotion-charged court bid.

"It is a desperately hard situation for any caring parent to be in," he told reporters. Thomas cries inconsolably, has constant fits and is fed through a hole in his stomach. He cannot control his limbs. In what could be a major test case for euthanasia in Britain, his parents say that force feeding the baby is barbaric and should be ended. In a landmark case in 1993, Tony Bland, was allowed to die three years after being left brain dead in a crowd crush at an English soccer stadium.

Parents refuse to take son back from police

CAIRO (AFP) — Police in a Cairo slum have been left with a nine-year-old boy on their hands after his divorced parents who threw him out refused to take him back, the daily Al Akhbar reported Monday. Police brought Mohammed Said Hamam into protective custody after finding him asleep in a street where he had lived alone for two months in the Shubra Al Khayma neighbourhood of the Egyptian capital. The boy told police he had been thrown out by his stepmother to prevent his father, a worker in a wood factory, from beating him. Hamam then fled to his mother, who also turned him out after her husband refused to give him a home. Police contacted both parents but each refused to take back the child. Hamam will remain with police until they can find someone to take care of him, the paper said.

Night at the opera ends with a bang

MACERATA, Italy (R) — The opening night of the opera Tosca ended with a bang at a summer festival in eastern Italy when the hero was shot in the foot during the execution scene. Italian tenor Fabio Armiliato, playing the painter Mario Cavaradossi, sat on the stage rubbing his left foot and was taken away on a stretcher. Organisers said, Armiliato was treated in hospital for cuts and bruises. Festival staff said he may have been hit by flying debris from a blank fired from a rifle in the third-act execution scene.

Waterworld tops U.S. boxoffice

LOS ANGELES (R) — Waterworld Universal Pictures' \$200 million gamble surged to the top of the box office charts Sunday, but the film's debut was less spectacular than other blockbuster films this summer.

According to industry estimates compiled by Exhibitor Relations Inc., a Hollywood firm that tracks box office results, Waterworld grossed about \$21.6 million over the Friday to Sunday period, easily beating the number two entry, The Net. Box office figures are based on actual ticket sales for Friday and Saturday and estimated results for Sunday. However, experts said the Waterworld opening was at the low end of analysts' estimates and well below the openings of other blockbuster films this summer.

Apollo 13, another Universal film, pulled in almost \$26 million in its opening weekend in early July while Batman Forever, the summer's most successful film thus far, sold \$52.8 million in tickets in its opening weekend. Universal spokesman Alan Sutton said Waterworld, which deals with life on Earth after the planet has been covered in water because of the polar ice caps melting, was still among the biggest box office openings this summer.

Waterworld, starring Kevin Costner, has attracted intense publicity because of its record-setting production costs, elaborate stunts and a public feud between Costner and the film's director Kevin Reynolds.

German SPD cools internal feud

BONN (R) — German opposition leader Rudolf Scharping won a break from constant sniping within his Social Democratic Party (SPD) Monday when his arch-rival said he would not challenge for the SPD leadership this year.

"I have always said I am not competing against anyone, especially not Rudolf Scharping," Lower Saxony State Premier Gerhard Schroeder told German radio, playing down speculation he would seek the SPD

leadership at a party conference in November.

But he dodged questions about whether he wanted to be the party's candidate for chancellor when the SPD tries to unseat Helmut Kohl in national elections in 1998.

There was no point deciding so far in advance who should lead the SPD ticket, he said.

Mr. Scharping has faced open revolt from some conservative SPD members who feel his consensus-building style lacks zest. Slumping in

opinion polls, the SPD needs a more ambitious leader like Mr. Schroeder to inspire it, critics say.

Mr. Schroeder has recently crossed swords with Mr. Scharping over taxes, Germany's military role in Bosnia and energy policy, but stressed he was only trying to defend his state's interests, not pick a fight with the SPD leader.

He criticised those who interpreted "every difference over policy as a personal battle between the two men."

Texas gunman kills 2 children, wounds 5

FOR WORTH, Texas (R) — A gunman shot and killed two children and wounded five other people at Fort Worth apartment complex including a police officer before surrendering to authorities, police said Monday.

The incident began Sunday morning when authorities received a report of shots being fired at the apartment complex, a police officer said.

Three officers responded to the call, and the gunman began firing shots out of his apartment, apparently at police, the officer said.

As police officer Angela Amjay passed by the gunman's apartment, he shot her, hitting her in the shoulder and abdomen, he said.

Other officers entered the apartment, found the gunman and ordered him to put his weapon down. He complied and was arrested, the officer said.

Inside the apartment, officers found a dead boy and girl, ages six and eight, as well as four wounded: A two-year-old girl, the children's 28-year-old mother, a security guard and another apartment complex resident, a man.

The wounded were taken to hospital.

Report: U.K. aware of arms sales to Iraq

LONDON (AFP) — The British government was fully aware of embargo-busting arms sales made to Iraq in 1989 by a British company, a former senior Foreign Office told the Daily Telegraph Monday.

Mark Higson, who quit the Foreign Office in 1990, said confidential documents reported that the British firm Ordetech was supplying military equipment to Iraq and was supplying the British secret services with information on Iraq by return.

"Information was known to me and to a number of other people very early on that Ordetech was supplying things to Iraq via Jordan and

giving us information about it," Mr. Higson told the Telegraph.

"I would then send these reports to ministers' private offices and other senior officials," he said.

Four senior figures at Ordetech were convicted in 1992 for having delivered military equipment to Baghdad, including components of pieces of heavy artillery.

The four men appealed the ruling and in order to prepare their defence were authorised by the Court of Appeal last week to have access to documents whose publication the government banned in June.

The appeal is expected to be heard in October.

Mr. Higson, who ran the British Foreign Office desk in 1989, said he had seen documents mentioning Ordetech as a "helper" M16, the British overseas secret services section, providing information on the arming of Iraq.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Months later, U.S. and allied forces forced the Iraqi forces back.

Several members of the current government have been dogged for over two years by so-called "Iraqgate" reports that senior government figures knew about covert arms sales to Iraq.

A judicial report on the arms sales is due to be published later this year.

Italian mafia 'plotted to kill 2 judges'

PALERMO, Sicily (AFP) — Sicilian mafia bosses planned to kill two anti-mafia judges in a car bomb outside Palermo's main court, judicial sources said here Monday.

The targets were Palermo state prosecutor Giancarlo Caselli and magistrate Roberto Scarpinato, both involved in the case against former Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti for alleged mafia links.

Four people were arrested eight days ago after a stolen car and about 100 kilograms of TNT explosive, of which eight kilograms had been made into a bomb, were discovered in Palermo.

The charge would have been big enough to blow up an entire building, Palermo police chief Arnaldo La Barbera said at the time.

Details of the assassination plot were revealed by two separate sources, one a reliable informant who said that the mafia wanted to blow up a booby-trapped ambulance just in front of the court.

The other source was mafia turncoat Pasquale Di Filippo who claimed Leoluca Bagarella, a brother-in-law of jailed Cosa Nostra (Sicilian Mafia) boss Salvatore "Totò" Riina, wanted to get rid of the two judges.

Mr. Di Filippo's information had already led to Mr. Bagarella's arrest in Palermo on June 24.

Police also found notes relating to the payment of 300 million lire (\$187,000) for 100 kilograms of explosive in the home of Mr. Bagarella

aided Antonino Mangano.

The revelations led a public safety committee in Palermo to beef up security around the court.

"We are getting lots of information about possible attacks. We do not want to blow this information out of proportion but we also do not want to underestimate it," Palermo Prefect Achille Serra said. "That's why we decided to increase security."

Mr. Caselli, Palermo's chief prosecutor since January 1993, has given new life to anti-mafia inquiries which struggled to stay afloat after the assassination three years ago of top Judge Giovanni Falcone.

Both he and Mr. Scarpinato worked on building up the dossier against Mr. Andreotti, who is accused of helping Cosa Nostra bosses, notably in getting the Supreme Court of Appeal to overturn sentences imposed on them.

Mr. Scarpinato will also be one of the prosecutors in the trial of the former Christian Democrat leader which is due to start on Sept. 26.

In related developments Monday, Bruno Contrada, a former police official and key agent for the Italian Secret Service, was freed Monday for health reasons after two and a half years in preventive custody, judicial sources.

His attorneys had asked that their client, currently on trial for allegedly colluding with the mafia, be freed for health reasons and argued that by allowing him to return home he posed no risk to the investigation against him.

Mr. Contrada during a court hearing this spring fell ill and had to be rushed to hospital, where he later tried to commit suicide.

Mr. Contrada, whose trial is one of the biggest in the run-up to Mr. Andreotti's trial in September, has repeatedly claimed his innocence and said he was being framed by mafia members seeking to avenge his police work.

He is accused of helping mafia bosses, particularly Mr. Riina, to escape police detection.

On Sunday a right-wing group called the Federation of Young Liberals appealed to Amnesty International to take up his case.

The affair has rekindled the debate over the excessive length of pre-trial detention in Italy, just as a law limiting this type of measure reaches its final stage before being adopted by parliament.

Meanwhile in Trieste, Italian magistrates were Monday questioning a man of North African origin who was arrested at the weekend carrying a manual that included coded information about making bombs, judicial officials said.

The man, whose name and nationality were not released by police, was arrested Saturday in Trieste after he entered Italy from Slovenia, the former Yugoslavia republic which borders the northeastern city, the officials said.

He was being questioned about his identity papers and about the manual, the officials said.

Dole finds it hard to deliver on local issues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate majority leader Bob Dole built impressive support for his challenge to President Bill Clinton's Bosnia policy. But he's finding it much harder to deliver on issues closer to home, and to the heart of his Republican Party.

It's enough to make a presidential candidate with the White House race started at the water's edge.

Sen. Dole's long campaign to alter a U.S. policy he brands fundamentally unfair took on momentum with new allegations of atrocities in Bosnia and ever-growing impatience with the relatively passive Clinton approach.

Those developments helps Sen. Dole marshal a large bipartisan majority in favour of requiring Mr. Clinton to unilaterally lift the arms embargo on Bosnia.

No such meeting of partisan minds has greeted the House Republican "Contract With America," the 1994 campaign document some lawmakers view as gospel. Some provisions in the contract and the ongoing budget process have driven wedges between factions inside the Republican Party as well as between the two parties.

A cornerstone of the contract, a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, went down by one

vote in the Senate. Sweeping legal reforms were abandoned under Democratic pressure in favour of a much narrower bill.

The House drive to limit new health, safety and environmental regulations and slash existing ones also has stalled in the Senate under heavy Democratic fire. If bill will be revived this week in far less dramatic form.

Welfare overhaul, another Republican priority passed months ago by the House, has turned into another Dole headache. Conservatives led by Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, front-runner Dole's chief rival for the Republican presidential nomination, contend the bill produced by party moderates betrays Republican principles and promises to voters.

Sen. Gramm would combine nine programmes into a block grant to states. He would also impose stringent work requirements, deny benefits to new immigrants, and end benefit increases for additional babies.

The Senate this week begins consideration of a revised Dole welfare plan somewhere between the Gramm bill and a Democratic alternative. Democrats are already dismissing the new Dole proposal as punitive and "far right" — yet it may not go far enough to please conservatives. There's no guarantee anything will pass.

The Senate's blurry lines, procedural tangles, muddy results and frequent lack of action are frustrating beyond words to hard-driving House conservatives.

"My blood pressure's pretty high," said Rep. Jim Nussle, a Republican from Iowa. He said there is "wide-spread" disappointment among his colleagues about the fate of their campaign pledges. He also said he is fed up with Republican "whining and complaining" about Democratic filibusters that haven't actually happened.

Personally, he said, he would force Senate Democrats to go through with their threats. "I'd get 51 votes and put 'em in the lobby. We've got work to do," Mr. Nussle said. He predicted the public would lose patience with Democrats after one or two actual talk-a-thons.

Asked if he faults Sen. Dole's approach, Mr. Nussle refused to say. He did sound less than impressed about the Bosnia vote. "I'm not sure I know what they accomplished," he said.

Sen. Dole scored a major success with passage of the Republican seven-year ba-

lanced budget resolution, even winning acceptance of tax cuts many old Senate hands had resisted. But as the chamber works its way through 13 spending bills, disappointments inevitably await conservatives who got satisfaction from the House.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, a Republican from Oregon, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, made it explicit last week. As the panel killed a House provision denying abortion coverage to federal employees, he urged his colleagues to "try to clean up these bills from the House that have undue burdens placed on them."

It's a mindset foreign to energised conservatives spoiling for a good fight.

Mr. Nussle, whose state caucuses in February pose the first test of presidential strength, said early this year he'd assess Sen. Dole's performance on the contract before deciding which White House candidate to support.

"I have not reached any conclusions yet," he said Friday. But apparently his constituents have. Recalling the adage about the House being the cup of hot coffee and the Senate the saucer that cools it off, he said, "my reading of what I hear from Iowans is that it's time to stick that saucer in the microwave."

WASHINGTON (R) — President Harry Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima was still a subject of debate in the Japanese capital Monday.

He authorised the dropping of the bomb on the morning of August 6, 1945. No hesitation. About the consequences. "Let's hear about it," Mr. Truman said in his memoirs. The bomb was a weapon and no doubt that it should be used. A half century later, the decision is still debated with a general consensus that it was necessary to bring about its morality, its need and its blood of book speeches.

But a man Truman's side opposed using cause he felt Japan should be given a chance to surrender. He argued that the Hiroshima bombing was still a subject of debate in the Japanese capital Monday.

He said the whole did not know about the atomic bomb because they did not understand it. The Nizze said of the left 140,000 dea-

Members of Anatoly Kul'spokesman Cooperation conference

Moscow

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Rebel Chechen fighters under an agreement of ceasefire incidents over six Russian soldiers killed in Moscow.

In Moscow, a national court Monday ruled that a decree by President Boris Yeltsin to disband guerrillas was "generally unconstitutional."

Russian troops away region's points and were fired on sniper to times capital Grozny deal, signed at ending several conflict.

Interfax News five servicemen in a single incident an army commander was killed and wounded in the past 24 hours.

The incident the fragility of accord reached after weeks of fighting. But the two same readied swap prisoners.

Decisive

WASHINGTON (R) — President Harry Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima was still a subject of debate in the Japanese capital Monday.

He authorised the dropping of the bomb on the morning of August 6, 1945. No hesitation. About the consequences. "Let's hear about it," Mr. Truman said in his memoirs. The bomb was a weapon and no doubt that it should be used. A half century later, the decision is still debated with a general consensus that it was necessary to bring about its morality, its need and its blood of book speeches.

But a man Truman's side opposed using cause he felt Japan should be given a chance to surrender. He argued that the Hiroshima bombing was still a subject of debate in the Japanese capital Monday.

He said the whole did not know about the atomic bomb because they did not understand it. The Nizze said of the left 140,000 dea-

nts in court
or baby
anasta

ON (R) — The
of a brain-damaged
boy Monday sought
suffering and let
ions and Con Cress
to the English
asking permission
aw artificial feeding
22-month-old son
brain-damaged in
and now blind
"Fiona and I love
beyond measure and
I don't seek this ac-
na," Con Cresson
re launching
on-charged court
for any cause
be in," he told
Thomas cries
has constant fits
through a hole in
ach. He cannot
nbs. In what could
test case for eutana-
tain, his parents
force feeding the
and should be
In a landmark
Tony Bland,
ed to die three
being left brain de-
and crush at an En-
stadium.

ents refuse
take son back
m police

RO (AFP) — Police
o shun have been
a nine-year-old boy
hands after his
ants who threw
sed to take him back
Al Akbar rape
aday. Police have
hammad said
protective custody
ing him asleep in re-
re he had lived
months in the
sima neighbourhood
Egyptian capital. The
i police he had
own out by his steps
revent his father, as
in a wood factory
ing him. Hamam
to his mother, who
ned him out after he
back refused to give
ne. Police contin-
ents but each re-
back the child. If
i remain with police
can find some
care of him.

light at the
opera ends
with a bang

ACERATA, Italy (R)
e opening night of
era Tosca ended
ing at a summer
stern Italy when the
s shot in the face
: execution scene. It
or Fabio Armillato,
the painter Mario
ossi, sat on the stage
his left foot on the
sen away on a stage
ganisers said. Arm-
ts and bruises. He
ff said he may have
y by firing debris in-
ank fired from a rifle
ird-act execution

laterworld
ops U.S.
oxoffice

OS ANGELES (R)
aterworld. Universal
res' \$200 million
urged to the top of
the charts Sunday.
in's debut was less
cular than other
r films this summer.
according to industry
ates compiled by
elations Inc., a Ho-
film that tracks box
sults. Waterworld
out \$21.6 million on
Friday to Sunday
sally beating the
to entry. The
office figures are
rual ticket sales for
ad Saturday and
sults for Sunday, the
pers said the
pening was at the
er's most suc-
us far, sold \$2.2 mil-
ickets in its
weekend. Universal
an Alan Sutton said
orld, which dealt
a Earth after the
een covered in
ause of the polar
neling, was still
ggest box office
his summer. Water-
tarring Kevin Cost-
tracted intense
ause of its re-
roduction costs, a
tuns and a public
ween Costner and
director Kevin Re-



Members of Russian delegation (from left) Arkady Volsky, Anatoly Kulikov, Vyacheslav Mikhailov listen while a spokesman for OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) makes a statement at a press conference in the yard of the OSCE mission. The two wearing army uniform on right are Chechen delegates Aslan Maskhadov (right) and Usman Ismayev (second from right). The press conference followed the signing of Russian-Chechen military accords (AFP photo)

Moscow: Military accord holds with Chechens

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Russian officials and rebel Chechens Monday prepared an exchange of prisoners under a new military agreement despite shooting incidents overnight in which six Russian soldiers were reported killed.

In Moscow, the Constitutional Court, after several weeks of deliberation, ruled that a decree issued by President Boris Yeltsin last December to disarm Chechen guerrillas had been "absolutely constitutional."

The 19-member court also ruled that a separate government decree also of Dec. 9, which gave the green light for troops to go into Chechnya, "generally corresponds to the constitution."

Russian troops in the breakaway region said army checkpoints and command posts were fired on by Chechen rebels. Russian troops in the regional capital Grozny despite the deal, signed Sunday, aimed at ending seven months of conflict.

Interfax News Agency said five servicemen were killed in a single incident in which an army column was ambushed. A sixth soldier was killed and 20 others were wounded in other attacks in the past 24 hours.

The incidents highlighted the fragility of the military accord reached in Grozny after weeks of bargaining.

But the two sides all the same readied themselves to swap prisoners seized since

Russian troops swept into the region to end a drive for independence.

Sandor Meszaros, representative of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Grozny, said the prisoner exchange had been originally set for Monday but had been delayed "for technical reasons." He told ITAR-TASS news agency that it would now take place Tuesday or Wednesday.

Delegates to the peace talks Sunday hailed the military agreement as a breakthrough which should lead to a permanent solution to the conflict, which has cost thousands of lives.

But the ink was barely dry on the document — the precise contents of which were kept secret — when Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was reported to have branded it invalid.

His comments, made by telephone to a reporter from the U.S. State Department-funded Radio Liberty, a Russian-language station, threw the hard-won agreement into doubt.

But in Moscow Russian officials Monday said the agreement still stood despite Mr. Dudayev's reported rejection of it.

Arkady Volsky, a senior member of the Russian delegation at the peace talks, held up a letter at a Moscow news conference in which he said Mr. Dudayev had fully empowered his negotiators to

conclude a military agreement on Chechnya's behalf.

The letter, signed by Mr. Dudayev, was sent before the agreement was reached but the main condition the separatist leader had set was that all members of the Chechen delegation signed the accord. "All members signed without exception," Mr. Volsky said.

Vyacheslav Mikhailov, the chief Russian negotiator, said the deal was sure to help peace moves. "I think in any case, whatever happens, the agreement is signed and has been signed by people who have influence and are able to exert influence," he told the same news conference.

The agreement also left unresolved the question of Chechnya's political status. The Chechen rebels want full independence but Moscow has ruled this out and says the status issue can be discussed only after elections are held in Chechnya.

Mr. Dudayev, elected president of Chechnya in 1991, unilaterally declared independence from the Russian Federation.

The rebels, who have fiercely resisted since Moscow poured troops into the region in December, fought in his name and the delegates to the peace talks were sent with his authority.

The Radio Liberty correspondent said Mr. Dudayev had alleged the Russian exerted pressure on his representatives. But the chief Chechen delegate, Usman

Ismayev, appeared relaxed when he spoke to reporters Sunday.

Mr. Dudayev's comments could be a move to appease hardline supporters who want to avenge the deaths of comrades-in-arms, and civilian relatives and friends killed by Russian firepower.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin abolished Monday the Presidential Human Rights Commission headed by rights campaigner and former dissident Sergei Kovalev, Moscow Echo radio said.

Mr. Yeltsin decreed the commission would be placed under the authority of a similar body within the presidential administrative, the radio said. The president's office has not confirmed the abolition of the commission.

The move would appear aimed at clipping the wings of the outspoken Kovalev, who has repeatedly denounced the numerous violations of human rights allegedly perpetrated by Russian forces during the war in Chechnya.

Mr. Kovalev, 64, has been vehemently critical of Russia's use of massive military force and indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians to crush Chechnya's unilateral secession bid from Russia.

His verbal attacks over Moscow's eight-month involvement in the southern breakaway republic has seen him increasingly distanced from the Russian president.

Decision of the century: Drop the A-bomb

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Harry Truman did it in the blink of an eye and he had few regrets.

He authorised the dropping of the atom bomb on Japan in the very same moment he was asked early on the morning of July 31, 1945. No hesitation. No brooding about the consequences. No doubts. No ifs ands or buts.

"Let's there be no mistake about it," Mr. Truman wrote in his memoirs. "It regarded the bomb as a military weapon and never had any doubt that it should be used."

A half century later, that decision is hotly debated, with a generation of historians and critics who were yet to be born casting doubt on its morality, military usefulness and his motives in a flood of books, papers and speeches.

But a man who was at Truman's side — and who opposed using the bomb because he felt Japan was about to surrender — said the bomb should be given its just due in bringing about the end of the World War II, regardless of their arguments.

"It gave the Emperor (Hirohito) something to hang his hat on," says Paul Nitze, a retired arms control negotiator, diplomat, navy secretary and Truman aide. "I think it's safe to say the atom bomb may have given the Japanese a face-saving way to surrender."

He pointed out recently, at a small gathering to consider Truman's decision organised by the U.S. Navy Memorial Commission, that even after the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan's cabinet was still divided.

He said people forget that the Japanese people as a whole did not know about the atom bomb because the military did not let on. "It was only understood locally, not throughout the islands," Mr. Nitze said of the bomb that left 140,000 dead by the end

of 1945. (It killed 71,379 immediately, the rest later).

"It did little more than add a sense of urgency to the deliberations" of the Japanese government, he said.

The bombs "were psychological instruments, not military," he said, able to destroy only small cities and after the two were dropped on Japan it would be months before the United States could assemble a third.

Mr. Nitze said Mr. Truman went along with Secretary of War Henry Stimson, Secretary of State Dean Acheson and General George Marshall who wanted the bomb dropped.

He recalled that the decision to bomb, rather than wait for Japan's complete collapse, was also based on the belief from intelligence reports that Japan would kill the 140,000 prisoners of war it held if U.S. troops set foot on the homeland.

In addition, estimates of how many Americans would die in an invasion ranged widely, from around 40,000 to Gen. Marshall's view of 250,000. "No one knew," Mr. Nitze said. "There is no way even now to tell. It could be 40,000 or 10 times that. Who will ever be able to say?"

It also was influenced by the reality of having so many troops waiting. He said Navy Secretary James Forrestal told him "one thing you have to do is not let 11.5 million men stand idly by. Politically, it would cause problems."

"I was sceptical. We were already firebombing," Mr. Nitze said, referring to the fact that in March 1945, 279 B-29 bombers dropped tonnes of napalm-like jelly gas on Tokyo, killing 84,000 people.

"I thought this would be one more drop in the bucket in destructive force," he said.

Mr. Nitze, who was in charge of surveying bomb

damage, said he "was more stricken by the destruction of Dresden in Germany than either Hiroshima or Nagasaki."

Mr. Truman seemed to make the decision with astonishing ease. In Potsdam, Germany, before another meeting with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, Mr. Truman took an important message from a navy aide, Message Number 41011.

From Stimson, it asked for

a decision. George Elsey, the aide, watched as Mr. Truman without hesitation turned over the note and wrote in pencil on the back:

"Sec. War. Reply to your 41011. Suggestions approved. Release when ready, but not sooner than Aug. 2."

Years later, when he was asked by a historian how he deliberated and what he was thinking, Mr. Truman leaned over, held out his hand and snapped his fingers.

"I decided it like that," he said.



This file photo shows a man displaying his irradiated back in the aftermath of the first atomic bomb explosion in Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945. Hiroshima lost some 140,000 people in the atomic explosion and from subsequent radiation sickness in the days and months that followed (AFP photo)

China's army does not rule out force against Taiwan

BEIJING (R) — China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) will not give up the threat of force against rival Taiwan if the island tries to declare independence, Defence Minister Chi Haotian said in a hard-hitting speech Monday.

Mr. Chi's warning, coupled with missile tests off the Nationalist-ruled island in mid-July, marked China's fiercest threat to Taipei since its President Lee Teng-Hui enraged Beijing with a private visit to the United States in June.

"The PLA will not undertake to eschew the use of force, and will not sit idle and let it go unchecked if foreign forces meddle in China's internal affairs to effect an 'independent Taiwan,'" Xinhua News Agency quoted Mr. Chi as telling a reception to mark Army Day on Aug. 1.

Neither would China's three-million strong army sit 'idle' if Taiwan authorities are bent on splitting China," Mr. Chi said.

China's Communist rulers have considered Taiwan's Nationalists as a rebel government since they fled there after losing a civil war in 1949. Both Beijing and Taipei have said they want reunification, but on very different terms.

Mr. Chi's speech was Beijing's most overt statement of its antipathy to any hint of efforts by Taiwan, a virtual diplomatic pariah, to establish a higher international

profile.

It follows China's tests of six guided surface-to-surface missiles just 140 kilometres north of Taiwan on July 21 to 26 along with a string of peacocks to its military modernisation and the success of recent army exercises.

Diplomats said they expected president and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, who also heads the powerful Central Military Commission, to issue a similarly tough speech Tuesday, the 68th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army.

"The PLA will firmly carry out the government's policy of peaceful reunification of the motherland and resolutely opposes moves by foreign forces to interfere in China's internal affairs, infringe upon China's sovereignty to undermine China's reunification," Xinhua quoted Mr. Chi as saying.

He was apparently referring to ties with the United States, which have plunged, as a result of Mr. Lee's U.S. visit, to their lowest point since the PLA used force to crush student-led pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

China has said repeatedly it would use force if Taiwan declared independence.

Military analysts have said the unprecedented announcement of the recent missile tests and ongoing military exercises off the

Chinese coast of Zhejiang province, just north of Taiwan, were a show of force to remind Taipei that Beijing's threat is not an idle one.

Although some said they did not expect China to use force against Taiwan they added that it might be pushed into action such as a naval blockade around the island.

The East Sea 5 Exercises along the Zhejiang coast have for the first time included mountain warfare training and city occupation drills with paratroopers engaged in house-to-house combat along with the more regular amphibious landing and air support, one analyst said.

The People's Daily said the 2.2 million-strong land army had upgraded its troops so that 70 per cent now qualified as special forces.

China has also announced it has held one of its largest air defence exercises in recent years — on July 18 in a desert in the northwest — and fired an unspecified number of surface-to-air guided missiles. It did not name the desert.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's President Lee said Monday that the island will definitely not develop nuclear weapons though it is capable of doing so.

"The Republic of China (Taiwan) has the ability to develop nuclear weapons, but the Republic of China will definitely not develop nuclear weapons," Mr. Lee

told the National Assembly.

Mr. Lee made the comment, broadcast on state-funded television, during a question-and-answer session in the current National Assembly session.

A deputy proposed last week that Taiwan should develop a nuclear arsenal to beef up its national defence, and Mr. Lee said the issue must be re-studied from "a long-term point of view."

Also Monday more than 60 senior Taiwanese officials left for Beijing to attend a financial seminar, marking the biggest delegation to visit China since bilateral ties soured in June.

Former Finance Minister Loh Jen-Kong, current chairman of Dah An Commercial Bank, led officials from the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, major banks and brokerages and professors for the two-day seminar starting Tuesday, the organisers, Taipei Foundation of Finance, said.

Former Central Bank Governor Samuel Shieh also travelled with the delegation as a consultant, the foundation, a private research body, added.

"They will get together with more than 100 delegates from the mainland's industry, government and academic fields. They will doubtless provide excellent chances for financial exchanges across the straits," said a statement issued by the foundation.

U.S., China harden stands ahead of talks

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — U.S. and Chinese officials hardened their stances Monday on rows over Taiwan and the arrest of a human rights activist as Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived for talks with his Chinese counterpart.

Mr. Christopher is to meet Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Tuesday after an ASEAN security conference in Brunei but the prospects for patching up severely strained Sino-U.S. ties looked increasingly dim.

"I expect to discuss the path forward and high level visits but I do not expect any absolute conclusions on that or any dramatic results," Mr. Christopher said.

Washington has already ruled out the one concession that Beijing wants — a clear-cut ban on future visits to the United States by Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui.

Relations have sunk to a new low since Mr. Lee's private visit in June that left Beijing seething over what is seen as a violation of agreements against contacts with

its rival government on Taiwan.

The United States is pushing for the release of Harry Wu, a Chinese-American human rights investigator held on June 19 and accused of spying.

Beijing has refused to discuss Mr. Wu's arrest, which spokesman Shen Guofang described as "an independent criminal case," with no links to Sino-U.S. relations.

"Taiwan is the most important issue in our relations with the United States," Mr. Shen said.

"On the subject of Chinese territory, the Chinese government will never make any concessions," Mr. Shen said.

"If the U.S. side fails to take positive action then any improvement in relations would be impossible."

Mr. Christopher last week rejected Chinese demands for a ban on visits by leaders from Taiwan. However, signals have emerged from Washington that President Bill Clinton wanted to meet Chinese head of state Jiang Zemin to mend ties.

Speaking on his way to Brunei, Mr. Christopher said a summit would not be likely unless China releases Mr. Wu.

"It's very difficult for me to envision any circumstances under which President Jiang Zemin would be able to come to Washington to meet with the president if Harry Wu is still incarcerated," Mr. Christopher said.

U.S. officials have not confirmed for a Sino-U.S. summit but Mr. Christopher said he would discuss "high-level" visits when he meets Mr. Qian.

Mr. Christopher is also to hand Mr. Qian a letter for Mr. Jiang from Mr. Clinton discussing relations, but he said it did not contain an invitation for a meeting.

He downplayed his first meeting with Mr. Qian since the decline in relations. "It is an important meeting but not a make or break meeting or an all or nothing meeting," he said.

Relations have been tense over issues such as human rights, trade and Chinese

weapons sales but Taiwan and Mr. Wu's arrest have sent them into free fall.

Talks between Mr. Qian and Mr. Christopher look set to overshadow a meeting on Security issues organised by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Many Asian countries are increasingly worried by the dispute which they see as potentially destabilising for the region.

"The U.S.-China relationship is fundamental," said an ASEAN delegate. "The current situation is much worse than we anticipated."

Mr. Qian has met with ASEAN members — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and has heard renewed pledges that the countries will not have official contacts with Taiwan.

He also mollified ASEAN concerns over territorial disputes in the South China Sea by saying that China will follow international law in discussing rival claims to the Spratly Islands.

Australia, N.Zealand excluded from Asia-Europe summit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — Asian nations preparing for a summit with Europe in early 1996 agreed Monday to exclude Australia and New Zealand despite Japan's lobbying for the two to be taken aboard, officials said.

The unprecedented summit in Thailand will include the seven-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) along with Japan, China and South Korea, senior officials said after a meeting on the summit plans.

Leaders of the 10 Asean nations will face counterparts from 15 European Union members plus the European Commission in an informal, free-flowing set-up. The theme will be forging "a new Asia-Europe partnership."

The summit is an initiative of ASEAN, which include Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Delegates to the ongoing ASEAN annual meeting in

Brunei said the Asian group reached a consensus that Australia and New Zealand will not be asked to join the first summit, but may be included later on.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans played down the snub Monday, saying it was "probably only a matter of time" before a consensus was reached on their involvement. "We're relaxed about it," he said.

The summit has been tentatively set for Feb. 29 to March 1 although Japan has yet to confirm it can attend on those dates, which coincide with a parliamentary session.

Asia is already linked to the Americas through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which will hold a summit in Osaka, Japan, in November to discuss the implementation of a regional free-trade programme.

Japan was joined by South Korea in asking that Australia and New Zealand, both

APEC members, be included in the summit with Europe, Singapore Foreign Ministry permanent secretary Kishore Mahubani said.

But Japan and South Korea accepted the views of the majority, and they "do not want to disrupt the consensus," he said.

He said plans called for leaders to "be able to sit comfortably with each other and talk to each other at the meeting, so they felt that the agenda should be kept very simple and short."

Mr. Mahubani said other nations would be considered for future summits. A European proposal to include foreign ministers as well in the Bangkok summit will be subject to further consultations with the leaders.

Senior officials are to meet in Madrid from December 19-20 to continue preparations for the summit.

Earlier Monday, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda told journalists that Tokyo was deter-

mined to "persuade the others" to include Australia and New Zealand in the summit.

Japan, Australia and New Zealand are taking part in a regional security forum here Tuesday, followed by annual ASEAN talks with key allies.

"There are very wide and deep relations between those two countries and the rest of Asia, and our feeling is that maybe the dialogue between Asia and Europe can benefit by having those two countries," Mr. Fukuda said.

Malaysia, which is pushing for an East Asian Economic Caucus that would exclude Australia and New Zealand, was the most vocal against bringing the two into the Asia-Europe summit.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Ahmad Badawi warned Saturday that ASEAN might be losing its collective voice in bigger groupings and must not allow itself to be "taken for granted" or "used by others in secure their own interests."

French congress meets to amend constitution

VERSAILLES, France (R) — A rare joint session of both houses of parliament opened in the palace of France's "sun king" Monday to amend the constitution, widening the use of referendums, in a move critics warned could increase presidential rule.

The Congress of the 887 members of the Senate and National Assembly was also due to adopt two other amendments extending the session time of parliament to a single nine-month period, and making it easier to prosecute parliamentarians for ordinary criminal offences.

New President Jacques Chirac promised the reforms in a drive to give French voters a greater direct say in democracy.

Under the proposed text, already adopted separately by each house of parliament, the president will be empowered to call a referendum on "reforms relating to the economic or social policy of the nation and of public services."

The conservative Gaullist Chirac promised during his election campaign to hold a referendum on reforming France's highly centralised education system, which would not have been possible under the current constitution.

The Socialist and Communist opposition parties vehemently oppose the amendment, saying it will further weaken parliament and the courts by enabling the president to bypass the legislature and the judiciary by putting controversial proposals directly to a vote.

They also argue that issues as complex as education reform or overhauling France's welfare system are too complex to be reduced to a simple "yes no" choice.

Even within Mr. Chirac's own overwhelming parliamentary majority, some

lawmakers voiced misgivings about the sweeping power it would give the president.

The Senate forced a modification so that any issue put to a referendum would first have to be debated by both chambers of parliament. But there would be no parliamentary vote.

Constitutional experts say the change keeps firmly in the hands of the executive.

The government spurned calls from the extreme-right and Ecologists for the public to be allowed to force a Swiss-style referendum by mounting a petition with a required number of signatures.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1973
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Labour market influx

IT IS an established fact that most Arab labourers in this country, who come from mainly Egypt, Syria and Iraq, work in the construction and agriculture sectors. The reason being that within these two sectors, foreign labour equates to a cheaper labour force than a national workforce. The average Egyptian worker, for example, earns JD 70 a month if engaged in agriculture and JD 150 if in construction.

However, work permits cost a prohibitive JD 300 per labourer, thus explaining why most work illegally. A building firm employing 20 workers is likely to resent paying JD 6,000 per annum to obtain work permits for them.

This is one side to the problem of imported labour. The second is the fact that since no minimum-wage law exists, employers, out of sheer self-interest, would rather employ foreigners. A young Jordanian labourer who pays rent or supports a family cannot possibly make ends meet on JD 70 to JD 100 a month.

There is therefore a dilemma. While the Minister of Labour, Dr. Nader Abul Shaar, says he will not deport illegal Arab workers, which is an honourable and exemplary stand, he cannot ignore cries of injustice from Jordanian labourers and political activists.

The question now is: would the curbing of foreign labour really open opportunities for the local workforce? We have to admit that we cannot answer the question, simply because we lack serious studies on the issue. Figures on the size of Jordan's workforce and the number of foreign labourers have been cited. But we doubt that any of them is totally accurate or believable. There are also no studies revealing the behavioural patterns of Jordanian workers. Would they be willing to replace Egyptian agricultural workers in the Jordan Valley or the South, for instance? There are different views on this and on the question of whether Jordanians would want to replace Arab workers who work in construction.

Unless we answer questions like these, we will find it difficult to react meaningfully and wisely to the issue at hand. It is therefore incumbent on the Ministry of Labour and other ministries to study the issue comprehensively before deciding on any certain plan of action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SULTAN AL Hattab, a writer in Al Ra'i Monday lauded Qatar as the first Arab Gulf state to open a representative office in the self-rule areas, describing the move as a step that might encourage other Gulf states to follow suit. Saying that Qatar has followed in the footsteps of Jordan, Egypt and Morocco in opening the office in Gaza, the writer said that the move is considered as an open support for the Palestinian leadership in its quest to establish an independent entity following the end of occupation. Economic and diplomatic support is what the Palestine National Authority (PNA) needs at the moment. The PNA has been obtaining this support from countries, said the writer. European states and Muslim Nations have already opened offices and provided moral and financial support for the Palestinians and it is time for all the Arab countries to do the same at a time when the Palestinians are struggling to stand on their own feet and build for the future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour said Monday that because Jordan is in need of tourists and visitors, it ought to take steps to help achieve that goal. Regulations banning a Jordanian from driving a car with Saudi licence plate discourages Saudi visitors from coming to Jordan, for instance, said Mohammed Subeili. He said that a Saudi national is not accustomed to roads, districts and towns in Jordan and he prefers a Jordanian to drive him around; but he is disappointed with the traffic rules. Another point is fining Saudi Arabian and other cars for slight offences, which harm visitors who are not aware of the country's traffic and other systems, continued the writer. Also improper and untactful behaviour on the part of officials at border posts can do harm to the Kingdom and scare away visitors, he said. The writer said that traffic rules and other measures should be relaxed and traffic police and other officials should be flexible in their dealings with visitors.

The View from Fourth Circle

History as entertainment or teacher?

By Rami G. Khouri

I HAVE had the pleasure this week of travelling around Syria on a family vacation visiting some of its major antiquities sites, on what is supposed to be, primarily a leisure trip. Yet it is difficult to appreciate the technical prowess and physical grandeur of sites such as Palmyra, Krak des Chevaliers (Qala'at El-Husn), the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus and Bostra in the south, or the calm power of monuments such as the tomb of Salaheddine (Saladin) without — from an Arab perspective, at least — drawing some explicitly political conclusions about the past.

The ancient monuments of our Levantine lands are presented to the world these days primarily in two forms — as profitable cultural entertainment for foreign tourists, or as destinations for picnics and family outings for Arabs. We tend to view our antiquities as being primarily about the past, and as being passive, dead monuments whose historical moment has passed long ago.

My renewed encounter with Syrian antiquities has dispelled many of these concepts, and reminded me of the many contemporary, political and global lessons that are inherent in these ancient ruins. The first lesson that we should ponder is about the nature of our antiquities sites throughout the Levant region: Are these monuments about the past only, or are they also about the present and the future?

I would suggest that they are very much about the present and the future, because even though the particular historical circumstances that gave rise to them — the Crusades, for example — have long vanished, the underlying geo-political and international forces that determine the nature of contacts and relationships between the Levant and the world's powers have changed very little.

The Crusades may be long over, but the essential political concept of Crusading is very much alive and well, though in a new, modern form. The Crusades wanted to conquer Jerusalem and the holy land and to wrest it from Muslim hands because they thought that the Holy City belonged only to them. They conquered Arab lands, and built massive fortresses to assert their eternal control of the land.

Walking around the astounding Crusader fortress of Qala'at El-Husn the other day, my reaction to the whole

Crusader episode was a combination of awe at their technical prowess in building such spectacular castles and fortified towns, and bemusement with the doomed audacity they showed in attempting to conquer and retain such important regions of Arab lands. I found myself wanting to read and learn more about the Arab political and military leaders who confronted and defeated the Crusaders, often at very high costs in terms of Arab lives and resources.

The fascinating thing about the Crusades is not that they occurred or were finally beaten back, but that they endured for so long — about two hundred years — in a region that was and remains endowed with such forceful human, natural, cultural and strategic resources. Archaeology and our antiquities monuments, in this respect, can be important resources for our own learning about our own past, complete with its successes and failures. The ancient monuments that we merely sell to foreign tour packages were, in their own time, emphatically political and ideological statements, and we would be making a very sad mistake if we thought that we could repackage our past in a non-ideological and purely commercial manner that essentially sees us view our past through the emotional prism of a Disneyland and the national/cultural values of an eastern Florida.

It is more than merely interesting to recall that while the most important person of the 12th century was perhaps Salaheddine, the most internationally recognised figure of the 20th century has been — according to survey evidence — Mickey Mouse. The journey that we have travelled in the last eight centuries has been marked by many complex relationships with Europe and the modern West, yet some of the underlying forces that determine the nature of our relationships have changed very little, and — if Mickey Mouse is any indication — have probably changed for the worse.

The commercial imperative that dominates the West's attitude to the Levant, the wider Middle East and the rest of the developing world is perhaps only a modern, mercantile version of the more crude Crusading mentality of the 11th and 12th centuries. The Western attitude to Bosnia in this respect is fascinating and instructive. I recall vividly during the period immediately before the Gulf War in 1991 that George Bush and James Baker repeatedly stated the key reasons for their military coalition to drive

Iraq out of Kuwait: The reasons were about the credibility of United Nations resolutions, the importance of assuring that small countries would not be subjected to the predatory aims of bigger, stronger countries, and the importance of affirming the application of the international rule of law.

Those principles are largely forgotten today in Bosnia, perhaps because Bosnia, unlike Kuwait, is not commercially significant; and in our modern world, where universalism is denominated in how many tickets to Mickey Mouse spectacles you can sell, the issues of truly universal interest to the West are those that have measurable commercial attributes. This is sad but real aspect of our contemporary world, but it was also a reality in the ancient world as well.

When we visit antiquities sites in the Middle East, we should make the effort to derive as much useful information from them for our own lives as we seem to be able to derive for the entertainment of visitors from other countries. The key lessons of a site such as Palmyra, for example, seem to be about the long-term futility of imperial dependence, of trying to generate durability and well-being for yourself in this region by delivering strategic services to imperial capitals far away. But Palmyra also teaches us about the political and aesthetic or cultural beauty of small nations or kingdoms in this region that live well and for many centuries by pursuing national strategies that serve their own self-interest while also being useful to others, ie. by striking a balance between national dignity and international cooperation and interaction.

The lesson of an Umayyad mosque, on the other hand, is primarily about the productivity, creativity and sheer human and national power that can be generated by indigenous resources when political forces allow local talent to manifest itself.

The cycle of national achievement and regression has defined the Middle East for thousands of years, and no doubt will do so for thousands of years to come. Perhaps the achievement phases could be lengthened and the regression phases shortened if we were better able to learn from the lessons of our rich past, instead of primarily relating to the past as the source of endless entertainment and amusement.

The Third World is watching the United Nations and the West

By Martin Khor

PENANG, Malaysia — The Serbian capture of "safe areas" in Bosnia is seriously eroding the credibility of the United Nations and the West in the eyes of many Third World countries.

Developing nations with large Muslim populations, such as Malaysia, wonder why Western powers show such reluctance either to defend the Bosnians, most of whom are Muslims, or to allow them to protect themselves by lifting the U.N. embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia.

Recent developments have exposed the hypocrisy of the West's rhetoric on human rights: the hollowing of its commitment to protect the sovereignty of a nation, even with the heart of Europe itself, if there is no direct threat to Western strategic interests; and the lack of political will to act militarily if this runs counter to domestic opinion polls and electoral prospects.

The French and the British have organised a 12,500-member Rapid Reaction Force. It is intended to intervene quickly when needed. But the force faces a familiar constraint: it cannot act without U.N. sanction.

The sense of frustration and anger in Bosnia's population, especially its Muslims, must run very deep. Not only have the major powers refused to act when so many Bosnians are killed, raped or driven from their homes as Serbs carry out their policy of "ethnic cleansing," even more disturbing is the arms embargo, which denies the Bosnian government the means to defend its citizens.

The Bosnian Serbs have had no problem skirting the embargo. They continue to get an adequate supply of weapons.

A number of Third World nations, particularly those with large Muslim populations, have pressed for lifting the arms embargo

on Bosnia but have faced strong resistance from Western countries, particularly in Europe.

By maintaining the embargo while failing to protect the Bosnians, the Western powers are actually aiding the Serbian takeover of Bosnia. The Bosnian Serbs, using supplies and aid from Serbia, have been able to advance rapidly, taking advantage of the Bosnian government's lack of weapons and the willingness of the West and the U.N. "peacekeepers" to stand by and watch.

Meanwhile, as human rights were being trampled underfoot on a massive scale in Bosnia, the human rights issue most promoted and publicised in the United States was the detention of the Chinese-American activist Harry Wu in China.

Newt Gingrich, the House speaker, threatened that America would use trade sanctions against China if Mr. Wu were not released. If only the same

fervor in promoting human rights that U.S. leaders show when individuals are detained was also mobilised to defend the human rights of large groups of people undergoing collective siege and torment in places like Bosnia.

Such double standards undermine the credibility of both the major Western powers and the United Nations.

The West could still do much to protect Bosnians from Serbian attack. But at the very least it must immediately lift the arms embargo on Bosnia and allow countries prepared to do so to send in rapid reaction forces to help defend the safe areas and recapture Srebrenica.

The writer is director of the Third World Network, a Penang-based non-governmental organisation dealing with developing-country issues. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

U.S. Bosnia arms lift could bring real nightmare

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

LONDON — For Europe, the real nightmare in the Balkans may only just be starting.

If the United States lifts the international arms embargo for Bosnia's government, diplomats and analysts say the consequences could go far beyond a humiliating withdrawal of the U.N. peacekeeping force and an even worse slaughter in Bosnia.

Many predict a wider Balkan conflict that would suck in NATO members Greece and Turkey and a lasting international rift between the United States, European allies and Russia.

That in turn would cripple future U.N. operations, hamstring NATO and destroy any hope of building a better European security order from the chaos that has followed the cold war.

"The effects would be far-reaching, from a worsening of the fighting in Bosnia to serious damage to the international institutions," said Michael Williams of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS).

Williams' vote in the U.S. Senate to lift the ban if U.N. peacekeepers pull out

or are asked to leave by the Bosnian government has to go through several difficult hurdles before it becomes law, since it is opposed by President Bill Clinton.

But any U.S. move to supply weapons would coincide with the end of the U.N. mission in Bosnia since key European nations have said they would be forced to withdraw.

British Prime Minister John Major hinted at the problems that would follow during last week's international meeting in London on the crisis, saying the peacekeepers had helped contain the conflict and curb the worst excesses.

"If UNPROFOR were forced out of Bosnia... it would not end our involvement," Mr. Major said. "We all know that."

Despite warnings and criticism from European allies and Russia, many in the U.S. Congress believe it is now time to act after three years of war and that nothing could be worse or more unjust than the current humiliation of the U.N. mission.

The Bosnian government argues that the U.N. arms embargo, imposed on all parties in former Yugoslavia in 1992 as the old fed-

eration fell apart, has put its forces at an unfair disadvantage since the Serbs had most of the heavy weapons.

But this is how European diplomats — and U.S. administration officials — fear things could develop if Washington unilaterally lifts the arms embargo.

A U.N. pullout would require the biggest military operation in Europe since World War II to withdraw the peacekeepers. Led by NATO, it would include some 60,000 troops, almost half of them from the United States.

Knowing that the arms embargo was to be lifted, the Bosnian Serbs would probably launch major attacks on government positions and try to hijack U.N. vehicles and weaponry. This would make a withdrawal much riskier, with higher casualties.

There would be more attacks on "safe areas" and more floods of refugees. "This time it would be no holds barred. The appalling scenes in Srebrenica and Zepa would be repeated elsewhere," said Mr. Williams of the IISS.

A more intense conflict in Bosnia would risk dragging in Croatia and even Serbia itself, diplomats say.

An end to the U.N. mission would bring armaments not only from the United States but from Muslim countries, including Turkey.

Greece and Turkey, although both members of NATO, are traditional enemies and deeply suspicious of each other's motives and history in the Balkans.

Russia is also critical of NATO and Western involvement in former Yugoslavia and may sell the Serbs weapons if others begin to supply the Muslim-led government.

"What you then have is a bitter war sustained by support from the United States and Russia, in the heart of Europe," said another diplomat. "Almost unthinkable. But it could happen."

Lifting the arms embargo and ending the U.N. mission would finally prove that Europe and its institutions had failed to deal with ethnic and nationalist problems on the continent.

A unilateral lift by the United States — in defiance of a U.N. ban — would destroy Washington's authority at the United Nations on other issues and undermine its claim to lead NATO, where it has often disagreed with European allies over Bosnia.

LETTERS

Name distorted

To the Editor:

REFERENCE IS made to the interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (Jordan Times, July 28), as I know Jerusalem, especially the Old City, rather well. I was puzzled to locate a "Via da la Rose" mentioned in the text of the interview. After a short reflection I have become sure that it is a distortion of the name of "Via Dolores" or the way of the dolours, commonly known to Christians and others as the "Way of the Cross" of Jesus.

Hubert Dobers,
Amman.

Waiting for telephone directory

To the Editor:

JORDAN HAS been without a telephone directory since 1983. It is not enough to complain or to underline the significance of this failure and I honestly think those responsible should be questioned. We enter into perhaps the final chance for a leap towards catching up with the world and there is no simple telephone directory. I know all the excuses. I think a group of three or four 18-year olds with some computer literacy can produce such a document containing 250,000 entries in a week.

I can clearly recall the promises of officials that the 'directory will be ready in June. By the way, I wish to remind the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) that a directory should be published every year and not once every generation.

As we are warned to pay our bills to the TCC and line up and have the right change and not to argue about the rates and the service, I protest the unacceptable failure of the TCC to produce the directory and call upon it to shape up very quickly.

Jafar Salem,
Amman.

'Treat us well'

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to share an experience I had in Jordan as a domestic employee for a Jordanian family.

My employer requested me to take the children to "Kids' Zone" in Sweihayeh an exciting event for both me and the children. When we got there, the children immediately got busy playing and having fun, while I stood to keep watch over them. Finally, I got a little tired, so I decided to take a seat. Suddenly a person who works there approached me and said: "You can't sit here. Only madames are allowed to sit here." "Why?" I asked.

"Orders from the owner," came the quick reply. What could I do? I stood up and could only think of the fact that I was made to pay an entrance fee like anyone else. But I wasn't allowed to sit on a plastic chair. I wondered whether, in response to a call of nature, I would be told not to sit on a toilet seat. I wondered whether I should bring my own chair next time. I wondered whether I should take the children somewhere else on the next occasion.

What a way to behave! What attitudes are these? Aren't we all born equal? There are the rich and the poor, the mighty and the weak, the fortunate and the less fortunate, the haves and have-nots. But in the end, whatever we are and wherever we are, we will all be treated well and equally up there.

Belle F. de Jesus,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

By Marie Special to the

KHALID BIKASH, Syrian Communist Party leader for 40 years, last week in remembered rades as a communist, a fighter, Arab freedom fighter and a post-democraticist. "I met him still working ground," recalled secretary of the Jordanian Democratic Party, Mr. Bikhdash, time in 1954, striking person, with per- ties.

Khalid Bikash, dish origin, for pence, French occupa- twenties.

At that teachings of Marx attracted joined the Syrian Communist Party. Shortly after to Moscow to study of Mar- ideology.

In 1935 Mr. turned to Syria became the general for the Communist Party. In 1958, Sy-

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Negoti- the relentless southern city of called off Mr. Prime Minister to's embittered boycotted the Mohajirist movement (MQM) government several of its cluding one to house searches ary rangers in ghols in Kara-

"The govern- even bothered demands," A head of the M- tion team, said

OSLO (R) — N- Monday there significant turn- Palestinian self- thanks to close- between the National Auth- Israel and don- Norway, who international donors for aid nian self-rule a final size of the would depend nomic and pol- ments in the re- year.

"We are in the budget dis- Palestinian a and especially finance," Jan secretary in the Foreign Minis- ters. He cited the Palestinian the World Ba-

King, C

(Continued f

King Hussein dan's relations countries are im- scribed as "good Syria and Egypt His Majesty dan's readiness possible support- nian people in their national ri-

The King said stresses in all for- ty of ending the Iraqi people, a "has its importa- this region."

The King ar- Price emphasise- ty of the Kingd- pence of its c- that the policies- lowed have secu- ended the thr- rounded in the

Responding to the process of "n- ties with Israel, again of his be- use of the word saying that there of war or a sta- that Jordan and- tered a state of- teration betw- and Israeli wo-

Features

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1995 7

Bikdash — the last of the hardened Arab Marxist chiefs

By Marian Nimry
Special to the Jordan Times

KHALID BIKDASH, the Syrian Communist Party chief for 40 years who died last week in Damascus, is remembered by his comrades as a committed Marxist, a fighter for greater Arab freedom, a great orator and a persuasive but undemocratic leader.

"I met him when he was still working underground," recalls Issa Madanat, secretary general of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, who met Mr. Bikdash for the first time in 1954. "He was a striking personality, confident, with persuasive abilities."

Khalid Bikdash, of Kurdish origin, fought for independence during the French occupation in the twenties.

At that time, the teachings of Lenin and Marx attracted him and he joined the Syrian-Lebanese Communist Party in 1930. Shortly afterwards he went to Moscow to continue his study of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

In 1935 Mr. Bikdash returned to Syria and in 1937 became the secretary general for the 12-year-old Communist Party.

In 1958, Syria and Egypt



Khalid Bikdash

him believe that he was always right."

In the mid-fifties, Mr. Bikdash became the first communist deputy to be elected to an Arab parliament. His procurement of 17 thousand votes in conservative Damascus was an obvious declaration of the people's response to his leftist ideas.

In 1959, all communist activists were arrested in Syria and Egypt. Mr. Bikdash sought political asylum in the Soviet Union and returned only after the end of the unity between Egypt and Syria in 1961.

While the party planned

to stage demonstrations against Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's Reform Movement in 1970, Mr. Bikdash advised reflection and caution and then went on to form his own Syrian National Progressive Front in 1972.

Yaacoub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, remembers the communist leader as a big man over 180cms tall, an excellent orator, a man who spoke clearly and precisely and who was unparalleled in his political performance and shrewd analysis."

Towards the end, Mr. Bikdash remained politically active despite his illness and was still the secretary general of the party at the age of 83.

Tens of thousands of people showed up at his funeral, including deputies from the Syrian government and several delegates from the various political parties in Syria, according to Mr. Zayadin. "He spent more than 60 years of his life in and out of jail, resisting occupation, staging demonstrations and living in exile," Mr. Zayadin said.

"He will be remembered as a great man, an idealist and a fighter for social progress."

Talks to curb ethnic violence in Karachi break down

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Negotiations to stop the relentless violence in the southern city of Karachi were called off Monday when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's embittered opposition boycotted the talks.

The Mohajir Qami Movement (MQM) accused the government of ignoring several of its demands, including one to stop house-to-house searches by paramilitary rangers in MQM strongholds in Karachi.

"The government hasn't even bothered to reply to our demands," Ajmal Dehlvi, head of the MQM negotiation team, said in Karachi.

No further talks were scheduled.

Many people fear an end to talks will lead to more violence in Karachi, Pakistan's financial centre, which already is reeling from target killings and daily gun battles, usually between MQM supporters and police.

"Entire neighbourhoods of Karachi have been turned into battle zones, and financial institutions and the Karachi stock exchange are routinely shut down by strike calls."

Ms. Bhutto's government opened talks with her militant opponents July 11, 1995, after nearly two months of

fighting that left about 500 people dead, most of them caught in the crossfire.

Since talks began, another 165 people have been killed. Little progress was made during the four rounds of talks, and neither side appears willing to compromise.

The MQM demands more rights and better opportunities for the Mohajirs, who immigrated to Pakistan after Indian partition in 1947. The immigrants make up about 70 per cent of Karachi's 12 million people.

MQM members say they are denied quality jobs and education. They want the

Mohajirs to be recognised as a fifth ethnic group, believing that would bring equality. Successive governments have refused.

Ms. Bhutto blames much of the violence on the largest MQM faction led by Aftab Hussain, a charismatic 39-year-old living in self-imposed exile in London. A breakaway faction of the MQM known as the Haqiqi further complicates the situation.

The two factions regularly clash, and Mr. Hussain's group accuses Ms. Bhutto's government of creating the Haqiqi group to destroy them.

Norway sees upturn in Palestinian fortunes

OSLO (R) — Norway said on Monday there had been a significant turnaround in the Palestinian self-rule budget thanks to closer cooperation between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Israel and donor countries.

Norway, which chairs an international consortium of donors for aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas, said the final size of the budget deficit would depend on further economic and political developments in the remainder of the year.

"We are impressed with the budget discipline of the Palestinian administration and especially the ministry of finance," Jan Egeland, state secretary in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, told Reuters. He cited reports from the Palestinian authority and the World Bank.

"I feel confident the budget deficit will go down rather than up. The worst is over. We have reached the turning point thanks to the Palestinian Authority, Israel and donor countries," Mr. Egeland said.

In April a meeting between the Palestinian Authority, Israel and the donor community forecast a budget deficit this year for the self-governing areas of 136 million.

Weak indirect and direct taxation systems and poor economic management by the Palestinian Authority had been exacerbated by slow clearance of excise duties and other revenues owed to the authority by Israel and long periods of border closures.

"The situation was fairly bleak. We were faced with a

big budget deficit which looked as if it was growing," he said.

But the April meetings provided a framework for the three sides to strengthen cooperation and obtained detailed commitments for Israel's support to Palestinian economic development including free passage of goods across borders.

Contributions pledged by donor states — \$2.5 billion between 1994 and 1999 — also have begun to materialise after a slow start.

In March, Norway sent donor countries an urgent reminder to pay up or risk undermining the Middle East peace process.

Donor countries contribute into the Holst Fund, set up in honour of the former Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan

J. Holst who died after brokering the 1993 peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We have expenditures from the Holst Fund of close to \$15 million per month and from being continually hazy-to-mouth about it, we are now able to cover that (expenditure)," Mr. Egeland said.

The major donor nations are the European Union, Japan, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Norway. In the most recent commitment Saudi Arabia pledged \$17.5 million to the Palestinian Authority and police force.

"For the first time we will be able to pay many thousands of public-sector employees on time. I feel confident we will avoid this year the problems of last year," Mr. Egeland said.

King, Crown Prince discuss help to Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein said that Jordan's relations with Arab Gulf countries are improving and described as "good" relations with Syria and Egypt.

His Majesty reiterated Jordan's readiness to extend all possible support to the Palestinian people in their pursuit of their national rights.

The King said the Kingdom stresses in all forums the necessity of ending the suffering of the Iraqi people, adding that Iraq "has its importance and role in this region."

The King and the Crown Prince emphasised the sovereignty of the Kingdom and the independence of its decisions, adding that the policies Jordan has followed have secured its future and ended the threats that surrounded it in the past few years.

Responding to a question on the process of "normalisation" of ties with Israel, the King spoke again of his bewilderment at the use of the word "normalisation," saying that there is either a state of war or a state of peace and that Jordan and Israel have entered a state of peace.

The King said that human interaction between Jordanians and Israelis would dispel old

fears and could be a factor helping the Palestinians in their negotiations with Israel.

The King criticised anew professional unions' involvement in political activities "at the expense" of their professional responsibilities.

He said the unions have no right to dictate norms of behaviour on their members, indicating his support of a legislative change that would no longer make union membership obligatory for members of the various professions.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Sunday that the government is "studying" legislation with view to introducing changes that would guarantee the freedom of choice of unions members.

Some unions said they would dismiss members who "normalise" ties with Israel.

Some laws ban professionals from practising their profession if they are not members of the unions. A decision by any union to dismiss a member for dealing with Israel will technically prevent him/her from working.

"Who gives the unions the right to judge people," the King said, urging the unions to focus more on raising the professional standards of their members and

addressing the problems which they face.

The King said the majority of Jordanians are supportive of the Kingdom's policies, which are carefully articulated to serve and protect the interests of the Kingdom.

King Hussein urged the minority to respect the views of the majority in accordance with the principles of democracy.

"The people are thirsty for information," the King said, adding that some in the media are still "living in the old times" and urging newspapers to present credible material that offers an objective picture of events.

Addressing the economic situation, the King said what is important is not to "become frustrated and frustrate the people."

The King said the Kingdom will be able to realise the economic opportunities of peace within three to five years. But he stressed the need to make the necessary reforms at all levels, including the "worn out" parts of the bureaucracy, in order to render the Kingdom able to utilise the opportunities that will be offered.

Talking to representatives of the local media in the meeting that lasted for over two hours, the Crown Prince pointed to

positive international sentiment towards the region but said that international investment will depend on the area's stability and regional cooperation.

"Market forces are encouraging but the political stands need to be changed," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of articulating well-thought out and comprehensive visions for the development of the region instead of narrowing the focus to limited projects and ideas.

He said Jordan is not seeking aid in the traditional sense but is pursuing cooperation in implementing regional projects.

"The slow pace of movement is not only by the international community. The donors are searching for solid, clear ground for investment," he said.

The Crown Prince spoke of the importance of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, stressing that the burden of preparing for the summit rests with the government as well as the private sector.

The King said that "we need the initiative of the people. The government cannot do everything."

Japan, Americans argue over undersea treasure trove

By Vanora Bennett
Reuter

LONDON — A rusting Japanese submarine carrying a fabulous treasure in gold has caused a row between Tokyo and the Americans who discovered it half a century after a U.S. torpedo consigned it to the deep.

The giant I-52 vessel sank in the Atlantic Ocean in June 1944, at the height of World War II. All 94 crew — and more than two tonnes of gold destined for Japan's wartime ally, Nazi Germany — went down too.

The following day when allied forces searched the area thousands of miles west of the Cape Verde Islands, they found only scraps of silk and a Japanese sandal floating on the water.

The submarine's exact whereabouts remained a mystery for the next five decades, despite estimates by the U.S. fighter-bomber which destroyed it, the nearby U.S. aircraft carrier Bogue and a German escort submarine which escaped.

Its cargo alone is worth \$25 million at modern prices and hundreds of tonnes of other metals are also on board. The metals were to have been used by Japan to pay Germany for new military technology.

Earlier this year U.S. maritime researcher Paul Tidwell used the Russian research ship Yuzhmorgeologiya to trace the submarine. It rests on the sea bed 5,000 metres below the surface and 2,000 km west of the Cape Verde Islands.

Mr. Tidwell wants to remove the gold and if possible raise the craft. The price tag of up to \$8 million would leave plenty of change from the gold's modern value.

Mr. Tidwell told the New York Times he believed Tokyo would make no claim to the war booty which, according to a manifest radioed from Tokyo to Berlin and decoded by wartime U.S. interceptors, consists of 146 ingots packed in 49 metal boxes.

Japan's collective memory of World War II, in which it was on the losing side, is painful and traumatic. A new generation of Japanese adults have turned their backs on the military values of their forefathers.

But Japan has made it clear that there were limits to its shyness about the past. It wants the gold too.

"As a general rule, both the vessel and its cargo are definitely the property of the government of Japan," said an official of the Japanese Finance Ministry's (overseas) National Property Division.

"In this case we think we have certain rights under international law," Mr. Tidwell told Reuters by telephone from his U.S. home at Centerville, Virginia. "But if there's disagreement I think it will be worked out."

Mr. Tidwell prefers to stress the historical value of his find. "We've been keeping the Japanese notified since way back in May, we've been keeping them informed. If we did raise the submarine, we would

return it to Japan. "I think the Japanese are going to get behind this project."

"Now we have to concentrate on what really happened in the Atlantic 51 years ago," he said.

Historians have never photographed the I-52. At 108 metres long it was bigger than any U.S. submarine of the day.

Until it was sunk it was engaged in the secretive exchange of materials and technologies between Nazi leader Adolf Hitler and Japan's Emperor Hirohito.

Although allied ships controlled the surface of the Atlantic Ocean by 1944, the balance of power had not yet been decided under the vast cloak of oceanic cover.

The Germans and Japanese used this watery veil to transport war material, supplies and payments between themselves — a trade route snaking halfway round the globe whose continued existence was of serious concern to the Allies by June 1944.

As well as gold loaded in Japan in March 1944, the I-52 picked up 228 tonnes of tin, molybdenum and tungsten, 54 tonnes of raw rubber and three tonnes of quinine on a route past Singapore and Africa to the Nazi-held French port of Lorient.

It surfaced only at night to recharge batteries, travelling underwater by day.

But Allied codebreakers had mastered the German-Japanese ciphers dealing with the I-52's route and cargo. "When it surfaced on June

23 for a mid-Atlantic rendezvous with a German submarine, a U.S. avenger bomber swooped.

Raising the I-52 may still not be possible, even now the site has been discovered, Mr. Tidwell said. It is stuck in a three metre crater created by the impact of its landing.

The technology which Mr. Tidwell intends to use to raise it is similar to techniques used to recover the Titanic, the ocean liner which settled more than two miles underwater after sinking in 1912.

Raising the I-52 will be more difficult.

"It's identical, but this submarine is 2 km deeper than the Titanic. We're excited about trying to meet that challenge, but... we might not manage to salvage this one."

Mr. Tidwell plans a photographic trip in the next six months to establish what he can do next.

The families of the Japanese crew, who were likely to oppose the salvage of the submarine by a private organisation from a foreign country, have not yet been identified.

Mr. Tidwell, himself a former military man who served in Vietnam two decades ago, said he did not expect to find human remains on the sunken warship.

"We don't expect to find any remains there. The Titanic showed there were no remains," he said. "The reasons are a combination of depth and the water being mineral poor, so everything breaks up and goes away."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey wants more protection from Kurds in Germany

BONN (R) — Turkey's ambassador to Bonn, Volkan Vural, on Monday demanded tougher action against Kurdish separatists after firebombers attacked Turkish properties in Germany for the seventh successive night. Arsonists hurled petrol bombs at Turkish travel agencies in the cities of Bochum and Bremen but failed to break the windows or cause substantial damage, police said. Police attribute most of the more than two dozen attacks to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), fighting Ankara for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey and banned in Germany for staging several series of violent protests here. Mr. Vural told German radio he understood that police could not post themselves in front of every Turkish shop. Germany is home to some two million Turks. It hosts about 400,000 Kurds, most of whom are from Turkey. But he said authorities must clamp down on PKK sympathisers.

Malaysia wavers on arms pledge for Bosnia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia on Monday shied away from reaffirming its offer to sell arms to Bosnian government forces, insisting it was merely preparing contingency plans in case of a U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia. "Arms should be the last thing... we are not there to go to war," Defence Minister Syed Hamid Albar told reporters at Kuala Lumpur International Airport after returning from a one-week trip to the United States and Canada to visit military aircraft makers. His remarks contradicted a statement by his deputy, Abdullah Fadil Che Wan, on Saturday that Malaysia would meet with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)'s contact group in New York soon to discuss the Bosnian government's arms needs. Mr. Abdullah was reported by the New Straits Times on Sunday as saying a joint committee set up by Malaysia's defence and foreign ministries would meet the OIC contact group to "discuss the financing for the purchase of weaponry and logistics."

Military kills 11 Kurds in southeast Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish military forces in recent days have killed 11 armed Kurdish separatist militants in separate raids in southeastern Turkey, authorities announced Monday. Army troops attacked hideouts of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the Hakkari province near Iraq and Iran and in the towns of Tunceli, Batman, and Bitlis in the southeast, the official Anatolian News Agency said. The agency was quoting from an official statement from the Diyarbakir provincial office in charge of coordinating the government struggle against the PKK.

Yemen says lift Iraq embargo

SANAA (R) — Yemen on Monday called for lifting of United Nations sanctions against Iraq, saying Baghdad had implemented all Security Council resolutions related to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "Just as our people rejected Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, we reject the continuation of the embargo of Iraq after it has implemented and abided by U.N. resolutions," the official Yemeni newspaper Al Thawra said in an editorial.

Israel, France expand double taxation treaty

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and France signed on Monday an expanded version of their 1963 treaty to stop double taxation, a spokeswoman for Israel's Foreign Ministry said. The spokeswoman said the most significant change concerns inheritance tax. French citizens who bequeath money to the Israeli government and non-profit organisations in Israel such as universities will not be taxed in France, she said.

Lesotho asks for Egypt's support in bid for ADB presidency

CAIRO (AFP) — The Foreign Minister of Lesotho, K.A. Maope, said Monday he had asked for Egypt's support in his country's bid to assume the presidency of the African Development Bank (ADB). Mr. Maope, who arrived here Sunday for a three-day official visit, told the media that he had passed on the request to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa during their meeting Monday. Morocco, Mozambique and Nigeria have also announced their candidacy for the ADB presidency.

Argentina, Syria could open talks on reactor sale

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentina might open negotiations with Syria next week in Washington on the sale of a small nuclear reactor for medical research, diplomatic sources said here Monday. A diplomat said the discussions could begin on August 11 in the U.S. capital and then resume August 21 somewhere in Argentina, probably in Buenos Aires. The diplomat, who asked not to be named, said Argentina would ask for the green light from the United States given fears expressed by Israel over the transfer of nuclear technology to its Arab rivals. There was no official confirmation from the Argentine government of the dates for the talks. The U.S. State Department and the Argentine embassy in Washington also had no comment.

Court studies claim Gonzalez linked to death squads

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's supreme court Monday started to examine a dossier of claims linking Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to death squads which targeted alleged Basque separatists, judicial sources said. According to reports leaked to Spanish newspapers, the dossier drawn up by investigating judge Baltasar Garzon contains "indications" that Gonzalez was involved with the death squads from the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL). It also has "indication" linking former interior minister Jose Barrionuevo and two other current Socialist deputies, Narcis Serra and Txiki Benegas, to the GAL units. The supreme court is the only court able to rule on issues involving members of the government or people normally covered by parliamentary immunity. If it decides the dossier is serious enough to warrant proceedings at such high level, it will ask for immunity to be lifted. However if the court rules there is not enough evidence, the case will be handed back to Garzon. Judicial sources said the key allegation was a claim by Ricardo Damborenea, a former Socialist Party official in the Basque region, who said Mr. Gonzalez not only "knew about" the GAL but was "not opposed" to their strategy. The GAL are blamed for the deaths of at least 22 suspected separatists in both northern Spain and southern France between 1983 and 1987. Mr. Damborenea himself was arrested in February and later released on bail on charges of kidnapping and attempted murder. The sources said holidays meant the court would probably not make a ruling before September. Garzon was meanwhile allowed to pursue inquiries "if there is an urgent need."

Japan factory explosion injures 27

TOKYO (R) — About 27 people were injured in an explosion at a metal products factory north of Tokyo on Monday morning, a police spokesman said. "Most of those injured are believed to be factory workers, and the number could go up," he said. It was unclear how serious the injuries were, he said. The plant is owned by Mitsubishi Materials Corp, the police spokesman said. A spokesman for the firm said officials from the company's head office were unable to make contact with the factory in Saitama prefecture, 25km north of Tokyo. They said the explosion was believed to have taken place in a section that manufactures seamless pipes from alloys composed of copper, nickel and steel. It appears that production has stopped, he said. It is the firm's only facility manufacturing the product, he said. Aerial footage broadcast on television showed that part of the factory's roof had been blown away.

6 Egyptians drown while trying to save chicken

CAIRO (AP) — Six Egyptians drowned in southern Egypt Monday while trying to save a chicken that fell into a well. An 18-year-old farmer climbed into the water to save the chicken and drowned after apparently being trapped by an undercurrent in the well, which was about 2.5 metres wide. Two brothers and his sister, none of whom could swim well, went in one by one to help him, but also drowned, police said. The family's mother then got help from two elderly farmers, but they were apparently snagged by the same undercurrent. All six — as well as the chicken, which survived — were later pulled out of the well, which was about 20 metres deep. The incident occurred in Nazlat Imara, a poor village in the southern province of Sohag, about 390 kilometres south of Cairo.

Cairo meeting discusses setting up business council

CAIRO (R) — Businessmen and government officials from Egypt, Jordan, the PLO and Israel attended a meeting in Cairo on Monday to discuss setting up a regional business council, Egyptian foreign ministry officials said.

Egypt's Assistant Foreign Minister Raouf Saad said the meeting had been suggested at the Casablanca economic summit held in Morocco last year. He added that the business council should be approved by the second Middle East economic summit to be held in Amman next October.

Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO have all signed separate peace treaties with Israel. They are also engaged in the multilateral peace talks with the Jewish state which began

at the 1991 Madrid peace conference.

As well as the political talks, participants agreed to form five separate committees on issues of regional cooperation.

Syria and Lebanon, which have yet to sign peace accords with Israel, were the only two Arab countries not to take part in any of the multilateral talks committees, saying political agreement should be reached first.

Mr. Saad told reporters that Egypt believed "comprehensive economic cooperation cannot be achieved except in the framework of comprehensive, just and permanent peace."

He added that Egypt was ready to help in discussing

"all means to support regional cooperation after peace is achieved."

Mr. Saad said the committee will hold other meetings in the coming stage to prepare for establishment of the proposed business council before the Amman summit.

A source at the Egyptian foreign ministry who refused to be named said Monday's meeting was low-key and more time was needed until agreement could be reached on what kind of projects the participants could cooperate in.

Representatives of the United States, sponsor of the Middle East peace process, and the European Union took part in the meeting, the foreign ministry said.

Kuwait must spend heavily to retain oil role

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait which spent billions of dollars repairing oil industry damage from Iraq's occupation five years ago, must now spend billions more just to retain its role in oil's big league, let alone expand it, diplomats say.

The Gulf state must contemplate heavy investment in

secondary recovery methods to augment the natural pressure of its giant oilfields since without it production capacity could start to fall in six to eight years' time, diplomats say.

"If they want to keep their influence in OPEC, big money will have to go on installing these technologies," one diplomat said before the anniversary of Iraq's invasion on August 2, 1990.

"Like middle-aged fields elsewhere, the output of the fields at some stage will start to decline naturally. The technologies to sustain and raise output from such wells are complex and Kuwait has little expertise in the disciplines required."

The country of 1.8 million depends on oil for 94 per cent of export revenue. It has 10 per cent of global crude oil reserves and accounts for three per cent of world production.

Diplomats say a fall in natural oilflow pressure in the wells early in the 21st century could lower production capacity if methods such as water injection or gas lift are not installed.

They said Kuwait had perhaps two years before it had to arrange contracts for installing the hardware in major fields since actual construction and training Kuwaitis in managing assisted extraction would

take several more years. This included super-giant Burgan field, the world's second biggest oilfield, they added.

Starting later would risk allowing maximum production capacity to dip from its current plateau of 2.4 million to 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd), a development that could erode Kuwait's influence in the oil market.

Production capacity and size of reserves are fundamental factors in OPEC negotiations on member states' output quotas.

Kuwait has never had to bother too much about the secondary recovery used widely elsewhere because its fields are perhaps the industry's easiest and most efficient to operate.

The fields lie in huge, shallow deposits under flat desert close to sea export terminals. Natural pressure has kept them pumping for 50 years. Crude output costs are 70 cents a barrel.

The country, confident that demand for its crude will rise in coming years, plans to spend \$15 billion to raise capacity to 3.5 million bpd by the year 2005.

But diplomats say a track record of slow decision-making in arranging big construction contracts could delay the expansion.

A case in point is a \$400 million contract for construction of two gathering centres

Saudi inflation up in first quarter

DUBAI (R) — Rises in the prices of utilities and petrol triggered an unusually steep 4.5 per cent increase in the cost of living in Saudi Arabia during the first three months of 1995, official figures showed.

The figures from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), obtained by Reuters on Monday, showed the general cost of living index for middle income people rose to 115.2 points at end March from 110.2 points at the end of December.

The figures from the Kingdom's central bank also showed the index rose by 5.1 per cent on an annual basis compared with the end of March 1994 when it stood at 109.6 points.

"The rise is a direct result of the increase in the prices of petrol and utilities. It will probably not set a trend," one diplomat said.

The Saudi government, suffering cash-flow shortages due to weak oil prices, in January forecast a \$4 billion deficit in a \$40 billion budget that cut spending by six per cent.

It introduced price rises for basic services and cut subsidies in a series of revenue-boosting measures aimed at diminishing total dependence on oil earnings.

At the end of 1994 the index had risen less than one per cent in the previously largely inflation-proof oil exporter to 110.2 points from 109.4 points at the end of 1993.

The SAMA figures showed the cost of living index for housing, which includes electricity and water, rose nearly seven per cent in the quarter to 124 points up from 116 points at the end of December and 112.8 points at end-

March 1994.

It showed the index for transport and communications up an even steeper 23.4 per cent to 128.7 points at end-March from 105.3 points in December and 104.4 at end-March 1994.

The indices for other categories like food, medical care and education were hardly changed.

The middle income category covers consumers who spend between 2,500 riyals (\$666) and 10,000 riyals (\$2,666) monthly.

The index, with a base of 100 points in 1988, covers the kingdom's 10 main cities.

SAMA figures show that the retail import price index for the first quarter of 1995 was little changed at 106.1 points from 106.2 in the same period of 1994, indicating domestic factors were behind the cost of living increase.

Aggressive competition spurs UAE retail banking

DUBAI (R) — Retail banking in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is developing fast as fiercer competition between the country's 47 foreign and local banks ensures that customers get more of what they ask for, bankers said on Monday.

"Retail banking is in the process of significant change and in two years time it will be very, very different," said Brian Fredrick, UAE senior manager at the British Bank of the Middle East (BBME), a unit of HSBC Holdings PLC 0005.HK.

"There is tough competition between banks mainly for consumer business like personal loans and credit cards. Banks are trying to follow the latest technology," Commercial Bank of Dubai senior Manager Ibrahim Abdullah said.

Until recently banks in the UAE have concentrated on corporate business and trade finance, particularly in Dubai — the trade centre of the Gulf. But greater competition in the past few years has seen the product range grow and the methods of marketing it to the public become more advanced.

"The range of products will continue to increase and the way of selling them to you will change," Mr. Fredrick said, referring to aggressive advertising campaigns run by a number of banks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have to be more aware of what your true potential today is if you are to gain the big success you desire.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Find more modern ways of operating today so that you can become more successful and forget the obsolete.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A partner has been detrimental to your best interests for a long time, and today you know how to handle the matter.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Early today handle career affairs which need solving, and then get at the tasks which are ahead of you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Use a more modern talent if you want to be more successful. Also get rid of some deep-rooted idea which annoys your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get rid of that condition at home today which is not functional and replace with more modern system which will work fine.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get busy at practical affairs today so that you need not suffer lack or delays where money is concerned.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go to experts for advice on how best to gain your most personal wishes, and then also use good judgement.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get that situation from the past nicely cleared up during day hours today and then study into new outlets this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Work on some long-term project during this day, but study more important goals this evening to get ahead in your career.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get that business completed this morning, and tonight you know how to improve your status in life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be sure you follow the Golden Rule during today and see how you can improve your lot in life this evening.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

U.S. official calls for new methods for settling trade disputes

TOKYO (AP) — Hoping to avoid more high-profile showdowns, the United States is seeking new methods to head off and solve trade disputes with Japan, a top U.S. trade official said Monday.

Jeffrey Garten, U.S. under-secretary of commerce for international trade, spelled out what he called a strategic framework for cooperation that would lead to a more positive phase in trade relations between the two giant economies.

The proposals, which Mr. Garten was to present later Monday to his counterpart in the Ministry of International Trade, Yoshihiko Sakamoto, come amid one of the most raucous periods of trade relations between the two countries in recent memory.

Less than a week after the two sides reached agreement in late June on auto trade, one of their most bitter and drawn-out fights, the U.S. trade representative's office said it was opening an investigation into allegations that

Fuji Photo Film Co. was shutting out American competitor Eastman Kodak in the Japanese market.

Under Mr. Garten's plan, the two governments would work more closely to ensure that existing agreements work, consult regularly on trade strategies, and seek more involvement from the private sectors of both countries in determining sources of tension before they rage into full-blown battles.

THE Daily Crossword by Manny Miller

ACROSS

- Garment strip
- Stadium feature
- iron
- Bluish green
- Come — (enter)
- Dancer Shearer
- Daylight
- Bakery item
- Tot's toy
- Hereditary unit
- West African country
- Liquid measures
- Deranged
- Long-handled hammers
- "Flanders"
- Poisonous compound
- Refrain syllable
- Needless delay
- Proverb
- Euphoric states
- Fix over
- Lahr and Convy
- Horse yet to win
- Showing life
- Collected
- Dressed
- On land
- relief
- Consider
- Greek letter
- Singer Guthrie
- Ostentatious
- Showed over
- Singing voice
- Textile fiber

DOWN

- Stinging insect
- Distant beginning
- "Clair de —"
- Seaman
- Prescription strength
- a customer
- Glove
- Organic compound
- Dallas school letters
- Latin-American dances
- Part of a stair step
- "You Glad You're You"
- Party nothings
- Press
- Shiny dress ornament
- Bath powder
- Arm bone
- Mischiefous ones
- Ibsen character
- Traffic sign
- Winged insects
- Imaginary line
- NCO
- In deadlock
- Traversed
- Shortly
- Flow: pref.
- Pilot
- Beat decisively
- Grocery store
- Philippine ruler
- Guinness
- Cast member
- Find fault
- Los Angeles cager
- Newcastle export
- Use a dirk
- Sabra dance
- Ives
- Pillar part
- River of Hades
- Author Fleming
- Doit

Puzzle solved:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | E | R | A | S | C | A | N | T | H | E | S | E |
| E | R | A | S | C | O | N | Y | H | O | M | E | R |
| N | I | C | K | N | O | L | T | E | E | L | M | E |
| A | S | K | O | L | D | E | S | T | L | A | P | S |
| B | I | D | S | N | A | Y | | | | | | |
| G | U | E | S | S | C | A | T | C | H | A | L | L |
| R | E | L | A | Y | C | L | U | E | B | I | E | |
| A | T | T | U | R | G | H | A | L | N | O | O | N |
| T | U | R | B | O | W | E | N | D | S | T | U | N |
| S | P | A | R | R | O | W | S | W | H | E | T | S |
| F | O | L | D | T | I | D | I | E | R | S | P | A |
| I | M | A | G | E | R | O | B | R | E | I | N | E |
| N | A | M | E | D | A | L | I | E | T | U | R | N |
| D | R | E | S | S | E | A | S | A | S | I | O | |

Customers have only relatively recently been able to do their banking by telephone in the UAE, and this only applies to clients of a few banks. Personalised credit cards and schemes tailored specifically for expatriates, who make up about 75 per cent of the two million population, are also new.

Only two banks — Emirates Bank International and BBME — have linked their automated teller machines (ATMs) so far, but bankers said the eventual linking of all ATMs to a central network is planned.

The Bank leading the retail revolution is the UAE's biggest privately-owned bank, Mashreqbank. It was the first to introduce evening banking — something recently followed by standard chartered bank, a unit of Standard Chartered PLC Stan. L.

Another innovative move by Mashreq was the launch earlier this year of new savings certificates which do not earn interest but make their holders eligible for a monthly lottery. Residents said this could be particularly attractive to some Muslim savers who object to interest as a form of usury that is frowned upon in Islam.

A Mashreqbank spokesman said UAE retail banking was "coming of age... until recently corporate banking has led the industry."

"There's a big move to the technology side," another banker said, adding that an open economy with low customs duties made accessibility to the latest technology easier.

But bankers said that as products become more developed, so banks tend to get more choosy in picking their clients.

They said care must be taken not to become so choosy that they exclude low-income earners from their customer base.

Many expatriates are employed as labourers and domestic workers in the oil-rich emirates, where they earn low salaries.

"It would be a great shame if this development (greater competition and more products) led to the lower paid being excluded from the banking system as has happened in some parts of the United States," Mr. Fredrick said.

"Whilst we move towards more professional personal banking, we have to ensure that we don't throw the baby out with the bath water," he added.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"This CD-ROM is just for husbands. It contains 5,000 apologies and excuses for every occasion."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MIFYL

KYASH

MARIED

YEUFLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " " " " " " " " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIECE CATCH MASCOT BLAZER
Answer: What they called the prose-reading cowboy — A POET LARIAT

Peanuts

THIS IS A GREAT PLACE FOR ICE CREAM CONES... THEY HAVE ALL KINDS OF FLAVORS...

WHAT FLAVOR DO YOU THINK YOU WANT?

CAT!

Andy Capp

HEY! ARTHUR!

LOOK, ANDY, MY TIME'S WORTH FIFTY QUID AN HOUR. SO KEEP IT SHORT.

TELL YOU WHAT, ARTHUR, YOU JUST GET ON YOUR WAY — I'LL TAKE THE CASH INSTEAD.

Mutt'n'Jeff

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN ABOUT?

ABOUT EVERYTHING!

TAXES, THE WAR AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE ARTIST WHO DRAWS US! HE THINKS HE'S FUNNY MAKIN' US DO ALL THOSE CRAZY THINGS!

YOU'RE SO SMART, WHO IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN?

SO WHAT? NOBODY ELSE KNOWS WHO THEIRS IS EITHER!

Busi

bus

daily

bea

A rev

of econom

from the Ara

Govern

pay ra

contin

on ris

costs of

Minister of

the governm

crease civil

annual incre

it is proven th

rise in living

minister was

Chairman of t

House of Pa

Finance Co

Hashem Al Dab

ing the govern

doing a study o

of living and th

come of the stu

termine its decis

issue. Followin

mittie meeting

Jardaneh and In

Trade Minister

Ragheb. Mr. D

the two sides ag

quest the pres

director gener

Statistics De

which is doing

in an upcoming

of the committe

the committee di

its meeting dra

the income tax

tax and invest

view of the imp

the three law

investment clim

Kingdom and th

quickly approve

fore the Middle

North Africa i

Summit (MEN)

will be held in

October, the co

cided to discuss

laws as one gi

Dabbas said. H

the minister of fi

the committee t

come tax draft

positively refle

zens. The minist

committee that

law will provide

ing income tax

people with low

especially those

annual incom

6,000. The minist

said the law wor

the income tax

banks and comp

30 per cent to 1

(Al Rai).

** The General

Voluntary S

(GUVS) has all

200,000 for the

ment of new ch

eties in various

the Kingdom,

which Tuesday

36th anniversary

allocated JD 50

assistance to

societies and J

to carry out vari

and income-g

projects (Al Rai)

** The first P

products fair cun

in Amman is sti

ing large numbe

ple. On its third

12,000 people v

fair. Visitors sai

gives them

opportunity

familiarised

Palestinian pro

helps enhance J

Palestinian tra

(Al Dustour).

** The Jordan

Company's prof

1994 totalled JD

lion, compar

4.092 million

thus reflecting

cent increase.

pany will distr

3.840 million

profits to shar

The company p

total of 2.9 ton

in 1994 (Al Rai)

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arab press

Government pay raises contingent on rise in costs of living

Minister of Finance Basel Jarrah said the government will increase civil servants' annual increments in case it is proven that there is a rise in living costs. The minister was quoted by Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Finance Committee Hashem Al Dabbas as saying the government was doing a study on the cost of living and that the outcome of the study will determine its decision on the issue. Following a committee meeting with Mr. Jarrah and Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, Mr. Dabbas said the two sides agreed to request the presence of the director general of the Statistics Department, which is doing the study, in an upcoming meeting of the committee. He said the committee discussed in its meeting draft laws on the income tax, the sales tax and investments. In view of the importance of the three laws to the investment climate in the Kingdom and the need to quickly approve them before the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA) which will be held in Amman in October, the committee decided to discuss the three laws as one group. Mr. Dabbas said. He added that the minister of finance told the committee that the income tax draft law will positively reflect on citizens. The minister told the committee that the draft law will provide for reducing income tax charged to people with low incomes, especially those with an annual income of JD 6,000. The minister also said the law would reduce the income tax charged to banks and companies from 30 per cent to 15 per cent (Al Rai).

By Glasberg

for husbands'ologies and occasion.

CRAMBLD WORDS

W's from M's

AT THE

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

Asians remain top trade partners of Dubai

DUBAI (AFP) — Japan, China and other Asian countries have remained key trade partners of the Gulf emirate of Dubai despite competition from the West, an official report showed on Monday. Japan topped the list of exporters to Dubai, a position it has monopolised for several years despite the strong yen.

Its exports stood at 1.48 billion dirhams (\$403 million) in the first quarter of 1995, according to the report by the Dubai chamber of commerce and industry and the state statistics department, published in the daily Al Bayan.

The figure is lower than that during the first quarter of 1994, when exports stood at around 1.91 billion dirhams (\$520 million).

Japan's exports to Dubai and other Gulf states include mainly vehicles, electronics, home appliances and other manufactured products. Its exports to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) dipped to around eight billion dollars in 1994 from \$9 billion in 1993 due to the stronger yen.

High exports to Dubai, dubbed the Hong Kong of the Middle East, indicate strong demand in the whole Gulf as the emirate is the main re-export centre in the oil-rich region and handles more than 20 per cent of the Gulf's non-oil trade.

China, once negligible in the lucrative Gulf market, has become the second partner of Dubai, with exports of 1.2 billion dirhams (\$326 million) in the first quarter of 1995, according to the report.

China replaced the United States, which fell back to third place with exports to Dubai totalling around 1.12 billion dirhams (\$305 million).

The report showed exports by Japan, China and the United States accounted for nearly one third of Dubai's total imports of 12.1 billion dirhams (\$3.29 billion).

South Korea emerged as the sixth biggest exporter to Dubai, with sales of nearly 964 million dirhams (\$262.6 million). India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand and other Asian nations also boosted exports.

But France, which was among the five top partners of the emirate a few years ago, slipped to the 10th rank, with exports of 393 million dirhams (\$107 million). Italy and other European states also lost ground to the Asians.

Iran, despite its island dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), maintained its position as the top export market for Dubai. Re-exports stood at 985 million dirhams (\$268.4 million), accounting for around 33 per cent of Dubai's total re-exports in the first quarter of 1995.

Iran's exports to Dubai stood at 253 million dirhams (\$69 million) in the first quarter of 1995 compared with 214 million dirhams (\$58.3 million) in the same period of 1994.

Banks closer to \$680 m Qatar gas project loan

DUBAI (R) — A \$680 million loan for the Qatar Liquefied Gas Company (Qatargas) will be ready for general syndication by late October, banking sources said on Monday.

The loan will be a major step forward for Qatar's \$6 billion Qatargas liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, the biggest single project finance scheme in the Middle East.

The loan for the "upstream" part of the project will allow Qatargas to install three offshore wellhead platforms and lay a 82 kilometre pipeline which will deliver the field's gas to an onshore liquefaction plant at Ras Laffan, 70 kilometres north of the Qatari capital Doha.

Japanese banks, led by the export-import bank of Japan (Jeximbank) and the ministry of trade and industry, signed a \$1.9 billion non recourse project loan to Qatargas in April to develop the "downstream" part of the project which mainly involves the construction of the liquefaction plant.

Earnings from Qatargas, which will start exporting to Japan in 1997 by exploiting the gas reserves of the massive offshore north field, is central to Qatar's economic future as it crude oil reserves mature.

Banking sources said that the terms of the \$680 million loan are nearly all complete after talks in London over the last two months between the four main banks behind the issue — France's Credit Lyonnais Crtip, Pa and Societe Generale Sogn Pa, Britain's Barclays Bank Barc. L and Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank.

"By September the terms (of the loan) will be finalised which will allow a general syndication by late October," a banker who requested anonymity said.

Qatargas is a joint venture of state Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) which holds 65 per cent equity in the project and U.S. Mobil Corp. Mob. N, French Total SA Tote. Pa (each 10 per cent), Japan's Mitsui and Co. Ltd 8031.T and Marubeni Corp. 8002.T (each 7.5 per cent).

Total 15 responsible for managing the upstream work. The upstream loan will be underwritten by a total of nine banks and is expected to receive guarantees from the French, UK, Italian, German and U.S. export credit agencies, bankers said.

Condensate prices are more vulnerable to volatility in international spot markets and supply contracts are much shorter than those frequently seen in the LNG business.

Qatargas has already secured a four million tonnes a year LNG 25 year supply contract with Chubu Electric Power Company 9502.T and additional sales of two million tonnes year have also been agreed with seven other Japanese utilities.

Qatar owns the third largest reserves of gas in the world with the north field holding an estimated nine trillion cubic metres of gas.

Refinery reports JD 4.9 m profit for '94

AMMAN (AP) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. on Monday reported a profit of JD 4.95 million for last year, up JD 860,000 from 1993's profits.

Abdul Wahab Zoubi, the company's director general, said profit could have been even higher "if the government did not interfere to set the margin of profit and prices."

Mr. Zoubi told the Associated Press negotiations were underway with the government to "commercialise our operations."

The government owns 15 per cent of the shares and the private sector holds the rest of the company. Jordan's only refinery.

The government, which sets the prices of the company's oil products, guarantees the firm's minimum gains and determines the margin of profit distributed to shareholders.

Jordan does not have any known oil reserves. It imports 55,000 barrels of crude oil and 25,000 barrels of fuel oil daily from neighbouring Iraq.

Amman - Rio de Janeiro - Cairo (1996)

Amman / Jordan: Amra Hotel building 6th. Circle P.O.Box 7676 phone 827118 Fax 827119

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | New York Close | Tokyo Close |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.6010 | 1.6022** |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.5803 | 1.5817 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.4888 | 1.4877** |
| French Franc | 6.7810 | 6.7837** |
| Japanese Yen | 88.11 | 88.20 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.3460 | 1.3443** |

European Interest Rates

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.48 | 5.68 | 5.68 | 5.68 |
| Sterling Pound | 6.50 | 6.62 | 6.75 | 6.93 |
| Deutsche Mark | 4.31 | 4.31 | 4.25 | 4.37 |
| Swiss Franc | 2.37 | 2.50 | 2.62 | 2.81 |
| French Franc | 6.21 | 6.06 | 5.98 | 5.93 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.62 | 0.56 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| European Currency Unit | 5.88 | 5.93 | 5.90 | 6.00 |

Precious Metals

| Metal | USD/Gm | JD/Gm | Metal | USD/Gm | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 385.45 | 7.50 | Silver | 5.04 | 0.120 |

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.6970 | 0.6990 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1155 | 1.1211 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.5035 | 0.5060 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.4055 | 0.4085 |
| French Franc | 0.1455 | 0.1467 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.7874 | 0.7913 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.4494 | 0.4516 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.0459 | 0.0461 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0459 | 0.0461 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.0459 | 0.0461 |

Other Currencies

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.8330 | 1.8450 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.042170 | 0.043070 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1855 | 0.1869 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 2.3000 | 2.3400 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1902 | 0.1915 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.1900 | 0.2160 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.8010 | 1.8200 |
| U.A.E. Dirham | 0.1885 | 0.1901 |
| Greek Drachma | 0.1850 | 0.2050 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.5450 | 1.6030 |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3682/92 | Canadian dollar | 1.3688/18 |
| | 1.3688/18 | Deutschmarks | 1.5472/82 |
| | 1.4742/84 | Dutch guilders | 28.38/42 |
| | 4.7788/38 | Swiss francs | 1586.21/2 |
| | 88.01/11 | Belgian francs | 4.7788/38 |
| | 7.0523/25 | French francs | 1586.21/2 |
| | 6.1200/50 | Italian lire | 88.01/11 |
| | 5.3680/30 | Japanese yen | 7.0523/25 |
| | | Swedish crowns | 6.1200/50 |
| | | Norwegian crowns | 5.3680/30 |
| | | Danish crowns | |

One Sterling 1.6018/28 U.S. dollar

One ounce of gold \$383.40/\$383.90 U.S. dollars

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
In Shmeisani, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ground floor, 280 sq.m.
Other apartments and villas furnished / unfurnished / for rent & sale.
Abdoun Real Estate.
Tel. 810605, 810608, 810620

A SECURE Hotel Swiflyeh
Turino
F.L.O.TEL SECURITY HOSPITALITY GASTRONOMY
All Suites Hotel FLAT.O.TEL
الاجنحة الفندقية الموكية
816690
At Turino

Cheers Cafe
Hamburgers & Pizzas
ELITE CAFE
Swiflyeh
816690
At Turino

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:
* JUMBO photo size 30% larger
* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 824042 Swiflyeh tel: 823891

FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas & Apartments in Amman
Sanabel Real Estate
Tel. 864230 Fax. 864231

EURO DOLLAR RENT A CAR
Make Car Rental Simple
Shmeisani
Tel. 693399

For Rent
Deluxe Furnished and Unfurnished Villas apartments and office Space To Suit all Budgets
681113 688816
For Rent - For Rent

NOTHING FAR WITH RELIABLE RENT A CAR
RELIABLE
ABDOUN 819676

SHENWAN GARDENS CHINESE RESTAURANT
Typical Chinese Foods Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30 - 2:30 & 6:00 - Midnight
Take away is available
Shit Al-Ana, Street Um Uthman Commercial Centre
Tel: 881174
Best Tasted Always Loved

MING-SHING Chinese Restaurant
The Best Cooking, Best Service, Best Atmosphere in Amman
Deir Ghar - American Embassy Str. near Baytuna Housing Estate
Open from: 12 noon - 3:30 p.m. 6:30 - 11:30 p.m.
Tel: 881638

AVIS RENTACAR
King Abdullah Gardens
Tel. 699420 - 816499

CRISTAL HOTEL
CRYSTAL HOTEL
* TENNIS COURT * HEALTH CLUB * SPA & POOL *
TEL 788180
GARDEN GUESTS 8888 - 8887
RADIO & TV STATION

CRYSTAL
Quality Furnished Suites
One and Two Bedrooms
Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay
5th Circle - 692672

EAT & TELL
With Self in Nowell
Chateau Cuisine ITALY, MEXICO, SWITZERLAND 863944

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel: 667171 ext. 223

DAJANI'S Unique gold & gems jewelry.

Agassi rallies from first-set loss to beat Sampras, win Canadian Open

MONTREAL (AP) — Andre Agassi won the latest duel with American rival Pete Sampras on Sunday, rallying after a first-set loss to win 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a battle of no. 1 vs. No. 2 in the Canadian Open final.

Agassi, 25, defended the title he won last year in Toronto and claimed his third Canadian Open Championship in four years. He is the first repeat winner since Ivan Lendl won three straight Canadian titles from 1987 to 1989.

"This (tournament) means a lot to me," said Agassi, who won the Canadian Open in Toronto last year and has taken three titles in four years.

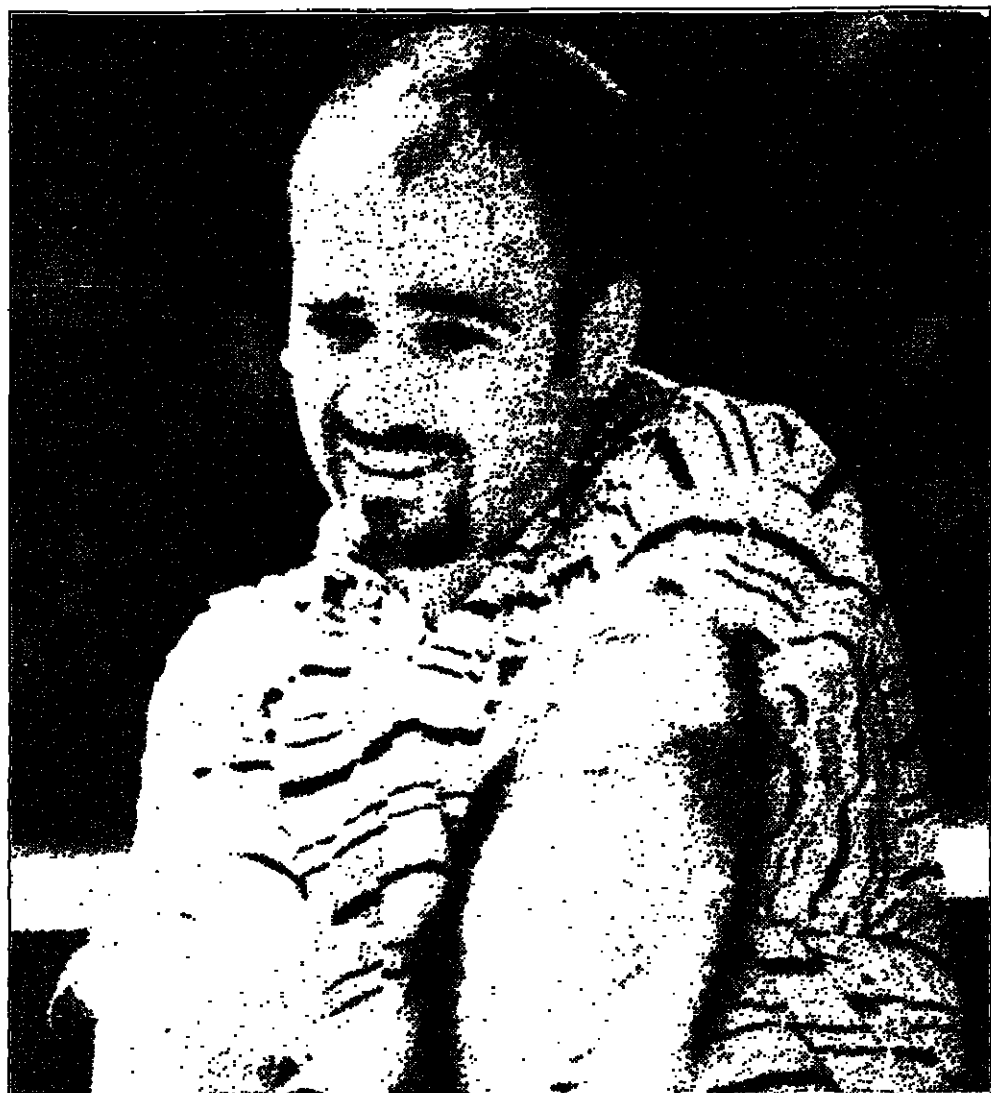
"This is where it started for me last year, it has special meaning for that. And, it's winning tournaments like this that make you No. 1."

The centre court and most of the rest of Jarry Stadium, a former U.S. Major League baseball park, is to be torn down and rebuilt into a bigger, better tennis facility for next year.

The Las Vegas native recorded his 400th career match victory, seventh among active players on the ATP Tour. He ended Sampras' 16-match winning streak, which included a third consecutive Wimbledon title on July 3. Sampras is eighth with 395 wins.

Sampras held the world No. 1 ranking for 82 weeks until he was ousted by Agassi, the reigning U.S. Open and Australian Open champion, on April 10.

It was Agassi's fifth tournament victory this year and



Andre Agassi

second in a row after a win last week in Washington.

Sampras, 23, started quickly on a hot, breezy day before a capacity crowd of 10,011.

He served two aces and a service winner to take the first game at love, then broke Agassi's service for a

4-2 lead that clinched the set. It was the first time Agassi dropped a set in five matches this week.

But Agassi raised his game a notch in the second, while Sampras began to struggle at the service line.

A turning point came in the final set, when Agassi

fought off three break points to hold service for a 4-1 lead.

"I was hitting some big, heavy shots on those break points," Agassi said. "I could see he was taking chances - you have to at that point. But if you let him make it 4-4, Pete's danger-

ous." The result evened the career matchup between the rivals at eight wins apiece, but Agassi has beaten Sampras in three of four meetings this year.

"After the first set, Andre raised his level and I went down a bit," Sampras said. "I had some chances, but I wasn't aggressive enough and he was dictating the play."

"His serve is basically a shot to get you moving his way. And once he gets you going side to side, he's got you."

Sampras was hardly downcast.

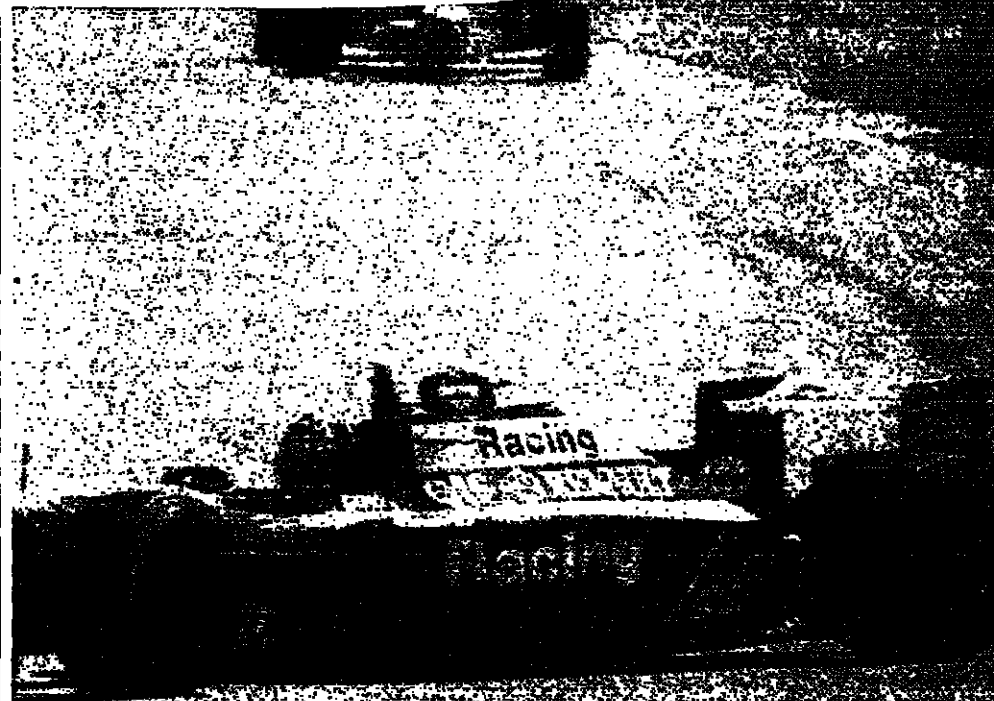
"It was good for me to get to the final, especially after that emotional win in Wimbledon. I'm disappointed. I'm here to win, but this is a good start to the summer (hardcourt season)."

Agassi leads Sampras by 1,016 ATP Tour points. Both are next scheduled to play the ATP Championship tournament in Cincinnati in two weeks, a key warmup for the U.S. Open beginning Aug. 29 in New York.

Agassi earned \$254,000 for the victory while Sampras took home \$133,800.

In the doubles final, the fourth-seeded Russian duo of Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy scored a quick 6-2, 6-2 win over Brian MacPhie of the United States and Sandon Stolle of Australia.

The tournament set a Canadian Open attendance record of 119,927 for the week, eclipsing the previous mark of 118,095 set in 1987 in Montreal.



Briton Damon Hill spins whilst in the lead prior to leaving the track during Sunday's German Formula-One Grand Prix in Hockenheim. Behind is Michael Schumacher (AFP Photo)

Schumacher basks in glory as Hill spins out

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (AP) - Damon Hill will have to drive better if he is to make a credible challenge for Michael Schumacher's Formula One title.

After spinning out in his Williams-Renault barely one lap into the German Grand Prix Sunday, Hill failed to finish his second race in a row.

Schumacher took full advantage of Hill's mistake to win the race in his Benetton-Renault and open a 21-point lead, with eight races left in the 17-event Grand Prix season.

With Hill starting from pole position and Schumacher right behind him, Sunday's race had all the makings of an epic thriller.

changed down a gear for the bend, then suddenly the back end went away from me. I was pushing hard, trying to pull out an advantage but I must say I've been around that corner enough times this weekend to know whether I'm within the limit or not.

"To me it felt as if the rear brakes came on a bit harder than they had done before - I don't really know, but that is what it felt like to me and it caught me out."

"This is pretty devastating for my championship hopes," Hill said.

In five pole starts this season, Hill has not won a race. The Briton has two wins, both of them coming from behind.

At the British Grand Prix in Silverstone two weeks ago, Hill tried to overtake Schumacher from the inside in a questionable manoeuvre, rammed the German and took both drivers out of the race.

The collision cooled already frigid relations between the two drivers. Schumacher clinched last season's world title by one point over Hill, after he crashed into Hill's car in the last race in Australia.

"I wasn't overdoing it. I

With his fifth victory of the season, Schumacher also made some history by becoming the first German driver to win a German Grand Prix.

Schumacher, 26, posted a time of one hour, 22 minutes, 56.043 seconds for the 45-lap race on the 6.823-kilometre circuit as he cruised home.

David Coulthard, in the second Williams-Renault, finished second, 5.988 seconds behind Schumacher. Gerhard Berger, the Austrian driving a Ferrari who won here last year, was third, one minute, 8.097 seconds behind.

The gap between Schumacher and Berger would have been greater had Schumacher not made two pit stops for Coulthard's one.

Schumacher said he was amazed when he saw Hill spin out.

"I thought the first corner could be quite slippery and I braked early. There must have been a lot of oil and dust."

"I saw Damon slide sideways and hit the wall and I couldn't believe it," Schumacher said.

After four years in prison, Mike Tyson felt discouraged in first sparring session

LAS VEGAS (AP) — His muscles were sore, his timing was off.

Mike Tyson was finding out what a legion of past fighters had discovered — physical shape is not fighting shape.

"Boxers who visited me (in prison) told me that it comes back," Tyson said in an interview. "And as soon as I hit the bag, it came right back. I was hitting the bag like the champion of the world, but boxing was something

different."

Recalling his first sparring session for his Aug. 19 fight against Peter McNeeley at the MGM Grand Casino-Hotel in Las Vegas, his first in more than four years, Tyson said, "I was very depressed. I looked like crap. I was very discouraged."

He said he was reminded of an incident he read about in the life of Willie Ritchie, a lightweight champion in 1912-13.

It seems Ritchie fought an eight-round no-decision bout against a tough customer and had taken a beating. When Ritchie found out he was to have a rematch in two weeks he was not pleased, but he prepared himself anyway.

On the day of the fight, Ritchie's opponent did not show. It seemed he had taken a beating, too, and wanted no more of Ritchie. "The moral of the story is you've just got to go through with things," Tyson said.

The word now is that Tyson has been knocking down sparring partners with regularity.

"That's the name of the game, isn't it?" Tyson said, with a smile.

The word, however, was

suspect in some quarters because it came from John Horne and Rory Holloway, Tyson's managers.

Since beginning training after his release from prison March 25, Tyson's workouts have been closed.

Rumors had it that Tyson was out of shape, that his hands were hurting.

Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, attended a workout last Monday, watched Tyson spar five rounds, and liked what he saw.

"He looked very big, very strong," Ratner said. "I thought he looked very sharp, not at all like he hadn't fought in four years. It looks like he's ready to fight right now. I was very impressed."

Those involved in the promotion said the reason for the closed workout is purely financial.

"The idea is you want more drama so people are curious what he looks like," said Mike Marley, a spokesman for promoter Don King.

"You see him fight when you pay your pesos."

"The media will be allowed to watch Tyson work out Wednesday at Hal Miller's Golden Gloves Gym."

Tyson last fought on June 28, 1991, against Donovan "Razor" Ruddock. While he won on points over 12 rounds, he didn't appear to be the iron Mike who became a champion at age 20 and dominated the sport until he was upset on a 10th round knockout by James "Buster" Douglas on Feb. 11, 1990.

Critics suggest that Tyson began slipping as a fighter after his 93-second knockout of Michael Spinks on June 27, 1988.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
Brand new, 224 sq.m., Location: Gardens
Consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, new furniture, new appliances. Fire-place; close to shopping area; first floor.
Call: 665611

FOR RENT OR SALE
Furnished or Unfurnished semi villa in W. Amman.
Kindly call Hamido 614597.

Opel Vectra 1995 CL White Colour
(Duffy unpaid) With AC, Coloured Glass, Run 6500 KM
CAR SALE
Please contact Tel No 840450

...After the shows of Jerash Festival:
LIFE AFTER JERASH
Meet at Cheers Café
Kerino Sweifyeh
863944

Request for Proposals for Hydrogeological Services
On behalf of the "Water Quality Improvement and Conservation" Project, Ministry of Water & Irrigation, a U.S. Contractor invites Hydrogeologic and Engineering Consulting firms to prepare proposals For the Identification and Compilation of Hydrogeological Data relative to a Study of Artificial Recharge in Jordan.
Offerors are requested to pick up RFP No. Jordan 95-010 documents at room 203, Ministry of Water & Irrigation Building beginning 12:00 O'clock noon, August 1, 1995
Closing date for offers is 12:00 O'clock noon August 10, 1995

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
11994 Tribune Made Service, Inc.
THE AUCTION TOLD THE STORY
Both vulnerable, North deals.
NORTH
♠ A K 9 8 4
♥ A J 8 5
♦ A Q
♣ A Q
WEST
♠ Q J 10 7 3
♥ 5 3
♦ A 9 7
♣ K J 10 2
EAST
♠ 3 2
♥ 8 6 5 4 2
♦ 8 7 6 5 3
SOUTH
♠ 6 2
♥ K Q 10 9 7 6
♦ J 10 3
♣ 9 4
The bidding:
North East South West
2♠ Pass 2♥ Pass
3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass
4NT Pass 5♠ Pass
6♥ Pass 6♠ Pass
Opening lead: ♠ 7
We have often written about how important it is to choose the right opening lead. Put yourself in West's place and decided what you would lead at trick one and why.
North's opening bid was artificial and strong, and South's response was positive, showing at least a five-card suit headed by two of the three top honors. North elected to show the spades first to indicate a source of tricks, then took control when partner rebid hearts and settled in a small slam on learning that an ace was missing.
It was obvious to West that East had a yarrowbough. Also, it was more than likely North held both the ace and queen of clubs and that, if necessary, declarer would be able to take a successful finesse for the king.
West had knowledge not available to declarer—the spade suit could not be established for discards. Since no declarer likes to rest the fate of a contract, especially a slam, on a 50-50 chance if any other line was available, West chose the jack of clubs as the opening salvo.
West's reasoning proved impeccable. Since the contract was cold if spades were no worse than 4-2, declarer drew with the ace of clubs, drew one round of trumps, then went after spades. Unfortunately, East ruffed the second spade and the defenders collected the king of clubs and ace of diamonds for a two-trick set.

Buy ONE lunch and get the other FREE.
Bukhara RESTAURANT
MAMA HANITA
INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN
(Offer valid at either of the above restaurants with this coupon through August 1995)

Tennis top rankings
Paris (AFP) — ATP tennis rankings published on Monday:
1. Andre Agassi - 5161 pts
2. Pete Sampras - 4145
3. Thomas Muster - 3667
4. Boris Becker - 3598
5. Michael Chang - 3064
6. Kafelnikov 2676
7. Goran Ivanisevic - 2660
8. Wayne Ferreira - 2252
9. Michael Stich - 2232
10. Sergi Bruguera - 2123
11. Marc Rosset - 2068
12. Magnus Larsson - 1840

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA presents Jurassic Park Directed by Steven Spielberg Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> | <p>CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA Kamal Shinnawi & Ilham Shahin in Easy to Get (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30</p> | <p>CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 3:15, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30 Baby's Day Out Shows: 12:30, 5:15 CONCORD "2" Only you Shows: 3:30, 5:30</p> | <p>AMMOON THEATRE TEL:618274 - 618275 MUSA HIJAZIN "sumaa" IN Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh</p> | <p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL:675571 Presents KABARET Abbeer Issa Ghassan Mashini with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein and Issam Al Hanbali The theatre closes on Monday Performances start at 8:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel:625155 AHLAN THEATRE presents (Ahlan Tatbee') Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman</p> |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|

Olajuwon and O'Neal named to head 1996 U.S. Olympic squad

NEW YORK (AP) - Lenny Wilkens got his "Dream Team" on Sunday, and he wants this squad to be as distinctive as the one that rolled to the gold medal in Barcelona in 1992.

An assistant coach of the original Dream Team, Wilkens sidesteps the subject of which might be the better squad — the original with Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan or the new one with Hakeem Olajuwon and Shaquille O'Neal.

"I'm a little partial to the first team," Wilkens said Sunday. "I don't think you'll see a team like that again. Each team will make its mark. We're going to go out there and be U.S. and not somebody else. We're not going to try to compete with what that team did."

USA Basketball made most of the team roster official Sunday, announcing a squad that includes four players from the 1992 team and one naturalized U.S. citizen.

Named to the first 10 of 12 spots were: Orlando guard Anfernee Hardaway, Detroit forward Grant Hill, Utah forward Karl Malone, Indiana guard Reggie Miller, Houston centre Hakeem Olajuwon, Orlando centre Shaquille O'Neal, Chicago forward Scottie Pippen, San Antonio centre David Robinson, Milwaukee for-

ward Glenn Robinson and Utah guard John Stockton.

Malone, Pippen and Stockton were on the original dream team, as was Robinson, who also won a bronze medal in the 1988 games, the last all-collegian national team.

The other two roster spots will be filled next year, probably in the spring.

One of them could be given to Magic Johnson, who recently announced he would not come out of retirement and rejoin the Los Angeles Lakers. Johnson has expressed a desire to play in the Olympics a second time.

The announcement Sunday came on a nationally televised broadcast, and represented a welcome change of pace for the NBA, which has locked out its players and been unable to reach a labour agreement with the players' union.

The selection of this Olympic team was largely without the controversy that surrounded the makeup of the 1992 team, when Detroit's Isiah Thomas was not included and Michael Jordan had to be persuaded to take part.

This time, Michael Jordan said early on he didn't want to be considered for a spot, and there were no glaring omissions. Passed over were three members of the world

championship team, Charlotte's Larry Johnson, New Jersey's Derrick Coleman and Seattle's Shawn Kemp.

Following last year's world championships in Toronto, USA Basketball officials quietly made it known they were displeased with the unsportsmanlike and unseemly behavior by some players of the gold medal team, and those players wouldn't be invited to Atlanta.

Wilkens may not want to make any comparisons, but that does not mean his players will follow suit.

"This Dream Team could take on all the other dream teams put together," said O'Neal, a member of the 1994 U.S. world championship team, known as Dream Team II.

"This team is really deep, more so even than Dream Team II," Miller said. "We are really strong in the centre position, with Hakeem, David and Shaq. We have two of the greatest point guards in Penny and Stockton, and we have the most talented three (small forward) in the game today in Scottie Pippen."

Olajuwon was named to the team after waging a long campaign with FIBA to be declared eligible to compete for his adopted country.



Houston Rockets' star Hakeem Olajuwon

IAAF appears certain to halve 4-year doping ban

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) - The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) looks certain this week to halve its four-year ban for serious doping offences after a series of challenges in the civil courts.

The IAAF council has backed a proposal to be presented to its congress starting on Tuesday calling for a two-year ban for first offenders in line with International Olympic Committee (IOC) moves to harmonise drugs penalties across all sports.

Recently the IAAF has found itself fighting doping cases in the civil courts, most notably in much-publicised scandals involving German sprinter Katrin Krabbe and American 400 metres world record holder Butch Reynolds.

"Some delegates believe that the IAAF has to be responsible and realistic in its recommendations and have enforceable rules," IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai said.

"Being passionate about doping is one thing. But some say there is no point in having law suits that are des-

tined to be lost and rules that are impossible to enforce."

The IAAF is keen to emphasise that a minimum two-year ban brings athletics in line with other sports but officials admit legal problems have played a major role.

Some of the IAAF's medical experts have consistently opposed the four-year ban and believe expanding out-of-competition testing is a more effective way of catching cheats.

German officials, battle-hardened by two doping scandals involving former double world sprint champion Krabbe in 1992, put a proposal to the congress in Stuttgart two years ago to reduce the penalties because they were not practical. The congress rejected the idea.

The mood of the debate is likely to be less passionate and more practical in Gothenburg, especially in view of the council's support of the idea which has been officially proposed by Russia.

Some countries, such as Britain, were fierce opponents of change last time. Gyulai said: "It would be

left to the discretion of a country such as Britain if they wanted to maintain the four years. It could even be longer. There is no upper limit."

IAAF officials admit, however, that some countries might find it hard to ban their athletes from competing for four years while doping offenders from other nations were returning to action after two years.

They also concede that an athlete banned for four years is less likely to return to competition than one who is out of the sport for just two seasons.

The congress will also discuss a German proposal to force athletes to prove they have undergone at least two out-of-competition drug tests in the build-up to major championships before they are allowed to compete.

The IAAF is keen to make sure the proposal is enforceable in all countries. Athletes from the less developed world could be in danger of missing championships, simply because their country does not have an efficient testing programme.

One dead, dozens injured at Jakarta soccer match

JAKARTA (AFP) - Police said Monday that one man died during the Dunhill soccer final here Sunday night, while press reports blamed dozens more injuries on stone-throwing.

Sutaryono, 63, from Bandung, West Java, already had a heart condition, said police sergeant Sutrisno, refusing to comment on newspaper reports that the man was trampled on his way out of the

match. "He died on the way to the hospital," the officer from the Tanah Abang police station told AFP.

The daily Bisnis Indonesia also reported that dozens were injured due to stone-throwing between supporters during a match watched by a crowd of 120,000.

Police and security officers at the Senayan Stadium refused to confirm the number of people injured.

One of the stadium's gates burned down before the match in a fire caused by cigarette butts, a stadium security officer said.

The Persib team from Bandung beat the Petrokimia Putra team from Gresik, East Java, with the game's only goal, 76 minutes into the game and will represent Indonesia in the Asia Championship Cup in Bangkok in September.

English clubs' financial health declines

LONDON (R) - The financial health of English soccer clubs is in decline, even though they are generating record turnover.

The accounting firm Touche Ross said its annual survey of football club accounts showed that while professional clubs' turnover rose 20 per cent to £387 million (\$618.3 million) in 1993/94, the clubs generated

profit of only £12,000 (\$19,170).

Most profits are being generated by Premier League sides, with clubs in lower divisions posting average losses of £416,000 (\$664,600) — up from average losses of £379,000 (\$605,500) in 1992/93.

"The gap between the top clubs and those in the lower divisions is getting wider,"

said Gerry Boon, chairman of the Touche Ross football industry team.

Only 39 per cent of all clubs posted operating profits in 1993/94, down from 41 per cent the previous year.

"The costs of running a football club have increased significantly, due principally

to a substantial increase in players' wages and salaries," said Boon.

Players' wages and salaries totalled £140 million (\$223.7 million) in 1993/94, swallowing 55 per cent of the total turnover of all professional clubs.

Players' earnings rose 19 per cent in 1993/94. Transfer fees rose to a record £92

million (\$147 million) from £73 million (\$116.6 million) the previous season.

Higher wages and salaries in the Premier League are having a "knock-off effect" throughout the game, Boone said. But unless clubs in the lower divisions greatly develop their off-field activities they may be unable to support the wages and salaries.



In Line with our continuous commitment

towards our customers,

NESTLE has the pleasure to

announce the opening of

NESTLE JORDAN TRADING CO. LTD

as of August 1st, 1995

For your inquiries please call or write to

NESTLE JORDAN TRADING CO. LTD

9 Burqa Street 4th Circle Jebel Amman

Tel 604655 Fax 673344

P.O. Box 5719 Amman 11183 Jordan

Nido . Carnation . Nestlé Cream . Cerelac . Nescafé . Nesquik
Coffee Mate . Maggi . Buitoni . Kit Kat . Lion Bar . Quality Street .



COMBAJ INT. CO. LTD.

The exclusive agents and distributors of Carnation Co. since 1957 and the exclusive agents and distributors of Rowntree Mackintosh products since 1977. After many years of hard work we made Carnation the leading brand in Jordan, and the No. 1 with Carnation Evaporated Milk and Coffee Mate also we made Mackintosh Quality Street to be by far the undisputed leader of the Jordanian Market and Rowntree Mackintosh Products including Kit Kat, Lion Bar, Polo, Rolo, Smarties, to secure the lion's share of the Jordanian sweets market. Today, we hand over all these products and brands to the newly established Co.:

Nestle-Jordan Trading Co. Ltd

managed by



Vevey-Switzerland

With our best wishes for the new Nestle-Jordan Trading Co. for a successful future while maintaining the leadership of these brands on the Jordanian Market.

Tennis 10 rankings

ris (AFP) - ATP rankings published on 1/8/95

1. Andre Agassi - 514
2. Pete Sampras - 414
3. Thomas Muster - 398
4. Boris Becker - 398
5. Michael Chang - 376
6. Karsten Krieger - 267

7. Goran Ivanisevic - 254
8. Wayne Ferreira - 254
9. Michael Stich - 254
10. Sergi Bruguera - 254
11. Marc Rosset - 254
12. Magnus Larsson - 254

Tel: 625155

THEATRE

Tatbee)

come

lisation

